

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



NO. 677.—VOL. XXIV.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1854.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.

## Newspaper Stamps.

THE return of the number of Newspaper Stamps at one penny issued to Newspapers in the United Kingdom in 1851, 1852, and 1853, has been laid before the House of Commons. It appears, from the return, that in the year

1853,

The <i>Times</i> (published every day) consumed	13,909,670
Stamps to the number of ...	...
Average circulation ...	41,244
The ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS (published every Saturday) consumed	
Stamps to the number of ...	4,116,598
AVERAGE CIRCULATION ...	79,165

It results from the foregoing figures that, during the year 1853, the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS had nearly double the circulation of the *Times*. It is not necessary for us to publish the details of the circulation of all our contemporaries, daily and weekly, or we could show, by the statements of this parliamentary document, that our Journal has a circulation ten times that of any daily paper, the *Times* excepted; and far beyond any weekly paper published at sixpence.

1851.

Although our regular circulation, in 1851 (*the year of the Great Exhibition*), was less than it is at present, the number of Stamps taken amounted to 7,574,214.

1852.

In 1852 (*the year of the Death and Funeral of the Duke of Wellington*) the Stamps consumed by the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS amounted to 5,649,905.

1854.

During the Present Year, the circulation of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS has far exceeded that of all previous years. We may add that it is increasing every week, in consequence of the great public interest excited by the War, and that it now amounts to

UPWARDS OF 100,000 WEEKLY!

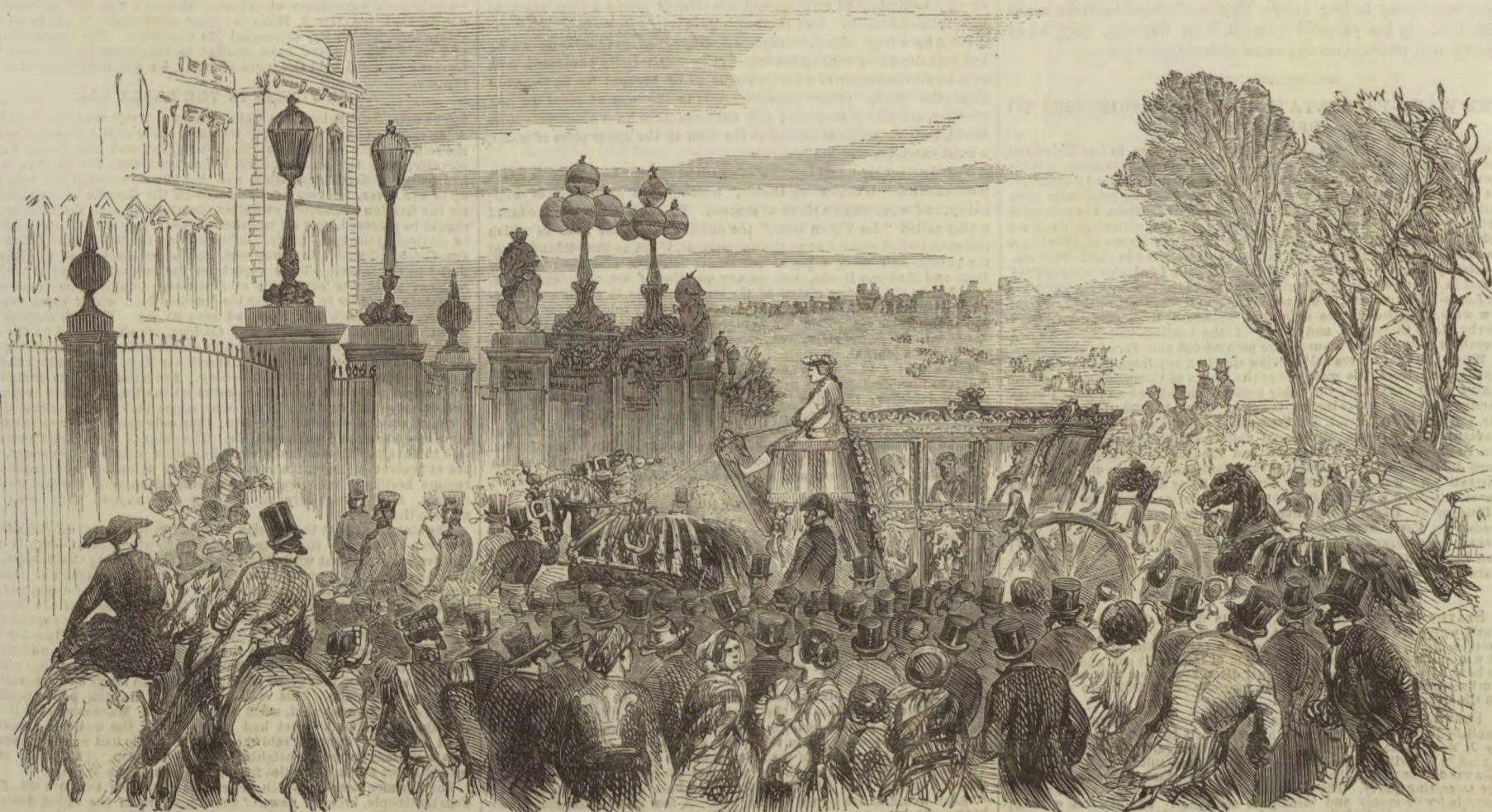
Office, 198, Strand, April 6, 1854.

## THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

THE public mind has lately begun to show symptoms of impatience as to the progress and conduct of the war. Such anxiety was abundantly justified. When it was found that the Black Sea fleet, under the command of Admirals Dundas and Hamelin, was stationed as quietly in Beicos Bay, as if there were no such place as Sebastopol in the world, no such sea as the Euxine, and no such enemies to meet and punish as the Russians, it was natural that some degree of anxiety should be felt. When it was further announced in the public journals, that the Russians, knowing they had the Black Sea to themselves, had succeeded in transporting no less than 4000 men from the Crimea to the outlets of the Danube; and that the Russian army, under the command of Prince Gortschakoff and General Luders, had passed into Bulgaria, and laid siege to and taken three Turkish fortresses, anxiety deepened into alarm, while alarm, in its turn, gave way to a feeling that somewhat resembled indignation. That feeling has happily subsided. Admirals Dundas and Hamelin, after their lengthened and unaccountable delays in Beicos Bay, steered for the roadstead of Varna on the 24th ult. As it is reported that not a ship of war is left in Sebastopol, and that the Russians meditate a naval as well as a military attack upon Varna, it is probable that we shall soon hear of a serious conflict in that quarter. The people of England are satisfied to learn that the period for inactivity has at length passed. They have their hearts in this business. They feel to the full extent all the responsibilities which they have undertaken. They know that the war is a great war; and are determined that it shall be conducted with the energy and courage that befit a struggle on which the peace, civilisation, and happiness of Europe may depend for ages yet to come. They have made up their minds to tolerate no delays that shall not be clearly proved to be inevitable. They hear with disfavor of half-measures. They have but one desire, which is to conquer a lasting peace, and to restrain, if they do not punish, the Imperial madman, who has so wantonly set the world in a blaze of discord. They expect acts of decision, and encourage the hope that British commanders will

rival the deeds of the departed heroes whose names shed lustre upon our national history. Although they may have a strong opinion that, in the earlier stages of the transactions which have unfortunately led to this rupture, the British Government did not display an energy commensurate with the occasion, they are content to "let bygones be bygones," provided that the war—now that we have fairly entered into it—be conducted in all its details with a strength, a promptitude, and single-mindedness worthy of the mighty interests that are at stake. They do not sympathise with the carping politicians of the Opposition benches in Parliament, who forget the needs of the present in their ill-natured reminiscences of the past. On the contrary, they look upon that man as a public enemy who endeavours to weaken the hands of the Executive by idle criminations. Parliament has in reality no further control over the progress of the war. Its sole duty is to strengthen the Government by all possible means, unless it have no confidence in the Government, and have it in its power to substitute another. But the most vehement member of the Opposition has no such design or hope. If any other Government were possible it would not be desirable at a crisis like the present. We, therefore, hope that with the debates on the Address in answer to her Majesty's Message, we have heard the last of the retrospective criticisms of the Opposition, and that the efforts of men of all parties will be strenuously directed to the one great object for which the nation is willing to put forth all its strength and to expend all its resources. The Earl of Derby, Lord Grey, and Mr. Layard, having disburthened their consciences, will, perhaps, be silent for the future if they have nothing better or more novel to excite their eloquence than the abortive conferences and negotiations of 1853, and the mazy diplomacy of Blue-books that have already become antiquated. It will be too much to expect that Mr. Disraeli should remain silent. A statesman, who seems to consider it his function to amuse the House of Commons, and to "make barren spectators laugh," though he "make the judicious grieve," is not to be restrained by the motives which influence other men. The public may, therefore, make up its mind to be amused, if it be not edified, by the sarcasms of this brilliant debater, but unavailable and unstable politician.

It is scarcely worth while for the public journalist to call public



PROCESSION OF THE HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS, WITH THE ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

attention to such speeches as that which was delivered by Mr. Bright in the debate on the Address to her Majesty. If Mr. Bright have no monopoly of the opinions which he expressed, he shares them with so few people beyond the limits of his own little sect, that he may be fairly said to represent an infinitesimal minority of the English people. In this free country every man is at liberty to be eccentric. Mr. Bright has the additional privilege of belonging to a sect whose members like to differ, not only in doctrine, but in dress and modes of speech, from other people. His sentiments will surprise nobody; and the eloquent and earnest manner in which he promulgates them will gain him admirers, though it may fail to procure him adherents. It is a happy thing, however, for this nation that such opinions are not common. If they had been, England would long ago have ceased to be a free country. It would have been overrun and conquered; and those who agree with Mr. Bright, if they had not been exterminated altogether by invading Russians or other enemies, would have been reduced to the extremity of becoming citizens of Pennsylvania, and of leaving the comfortable pastures of England, where they had thriven and grown comfortable. The Commerce of England might find reason to regret that Pennsylvania should rob us of such estimable and well-to-do people as the members of the Society of Friends; but Patriotism would have no reason to deplore the emigration of a body of men who consider offensive and defensive war to be alike unjustifiable, and who condemn even more fiercely resistance to oppression and wrong than the wrong and the oppression which make resistance a duty and a necessity.

But more interest attaches at present to the conduct of the Austrian and Prussian Cabinets than to any proceedings in the British Parliament, however important. Neither of these Powers has yet declared itself, although considerable pressure is exerted upon each by its own subjects to induce it to take the course which honour and prudence alike dictate. The sympathies of the German people are with France and England; and the dynastic interests of King and Emperor must give way to the superior considerations of national safety. While the King of Prussia hesitates and runs his head against a tree, the Committee of the Chamber, to which the demand of the Government for a loan of thirty millions of dollars had been referred, only grants the money because it believes "that the King's Government intends to persevere, for the future, in the coarse of policy followed up to this time, in conjunction with the Cabinets of Vienna, Paris, and London; but more especially with Austria and the German States; namely to labour for the restoration of peace on the basis of right, as it has been laid down in the protocols of Vienna, and reserving to itself the power of deciding in favour of an active intervention." This is a sufficiently broad and intelligible hint of the wishes of the Prussian people; a state of things for which the world is, no doubt, to some extent indebted to the publication of the "Secret and Confidential Correspondence." The exposure has fairly opened the eyes of the German people, both in Prussia and in Austria, and has greatly increased the traditional animosity which the Germans bear against the Russians. In Austria the effect has been even more powerful than in Prussia. The Czar only treated the Prussians with contempt; but towards Austria he exhibited perfidy of a kind which the young Emperor is likely to feel as acutely, and resent as strongly as his people. The progress of hostilities in Bulgaria and the advance of the Russians by their ancient route through the pestilential marshes of the Dobrudja towards Varna must expedite the decision of Austria; and when Austria takes her course, Prussia must follow. In the meantime it appears that the Czar has declared his willingness, if the Allies can obtain from the Porte guarantees for the immunities of its Christian subjects, to withdraw his troops from the Turkish territory on condition that the Allied Fleets are simultaneously withdrawn from the Black Sea. If this rumour be correct, the conduct of the Czar can only proceed from fear or from cunning. If it be dictated by fear, the Allies know what course to adopt; and they will subject him to much severer pressure of the same wholesome feeling before they condescend to make terms with him. If his proposal proceed from cunning, they know equally well what course to pursue with respect to him.

#### THE WAR.—PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESSES TO HER MAJESTY.

MONDAY being the day appointed for the presentation to her Majesty of the Addresses agreed to by the Houses of Lords and Commons, a large crowd collected in and about Palace-yard to see the anticipated pageantry. At about two o'clock, the names of the Peers having previously been called over, the Lord Chancellor took his departure from the principal entrance of the House of Lords. His Lordship was attired in his State robes of office, and headed the cortège from the House of Peers in a handsome state carriage. The junior Peers followed in their order immediately after the Chancellor. Nearly all their Lordships were attired either in Windsor or in Ministerial uniform, or in their military uniforms as Lords-Lieutenants of counties; consequently under this disguise but few were recognized by the crowd in waiting. Lord Aberdeen, Lord Derby, Lord Clarendon, and a few of the leading and better-known members of the Upper House, were pointed out and warmly cheered.

While the Lords were still moving slowly away from Palace-yard up Parliament-street, the members of the House of Commons commenced taking their departure, the richly painted and carved and gilded state carriage of the Speaker leading the way. Lord J. Russell, Sir C. Wood, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Strutt, Mr. Frederick Peel, and other members of the Government wore the Ministerial uniforms; as did also Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Banks, Sir John Pakington, and the leaders of the Opposition. Lord John Russell was instantly recognised, and warmly cheered; Mr. Disraeli also was very loudly cheered. Some of the members wore Court suits, and a great many wore their uniforms either as officers of militia or as Deputy-Lieutenants of counties. The procession proceeded up Parliament-street, through the Horse Guards, into the Mall. Round the entrance to Buckingham Palace a large crowd had collected; and Lord J. Russell, Mr. Disraeli, and a few other leading members, were loudly cheered as before.

STATUE OF LOUIS XVI.—A curious discovery has been made in Paris, within the last few days. A colossal statue of Louis XVI. had been ordered from a celebrated sculptor early in 1830, for the city of Bordeaux. It was in the mould when the revolution of 1830 broke out, and it appears to have been forgotten, for it was only discovered a few days ago by some workmen who were cleaning the site for some new building, to be erected on the Quai Beaujon, in Paris.

PORTRAIT OF SIR CHARLES NAPIER.—Mr. M'Lean has just published a very spirited full-length portrait of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, by J. M. Joy, the engraving by W. Carlos. The gallant Admiral is represented in a spirited attitude, advancing to the assault of St. Jean d'Acre, his sword in one hand, the other pointing to the attack, as leading forward the assaulting party. The portrait is very like, and the expression admirable for its manly and intelligent character. The pictorial effect of light and shade is skilfully managed, and the whole may be pronounced a very interesting and successful performance.

#### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

##### FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The fêtes of the Mi-Carême have terminated; the salons are closed for dancing, and the season of concerts has set in with its usual vigour. All the diplomacy, all the address, all the boldness of the one portion of the world of society, and the world of art in the musical branch is brought into play to place concert-tickets; all the *ruses*, all the tactics, all the ingenuity of the other, to avoid taking them. Enter a drawing-room, and the mistress of the house, with a mixture of amiability and assurance, tells you she has put down your name for five tickets, at five francs a-piece, for the Matinée Musicale of her infant *prolégé*, who, at four years old, plays the harp with her hands and the piano with her feet; she also confides to you twenty more to place before twelve o'clock to-morrow—*et ainsi de suite*.

In the meanwhile commerce languishes deplorably. It is to be hoped that the spring season will give some impulse in this respect, but it is a positive fact that during the whole of the winter, many of the great *magasins* of the capital, have kept but one-half of their usual number of assistants.

The title to be borne by the new institution of the Palace Guards—which were at one time to be called the Guards of the Emperor, at another, of the Empress—is finally decided on as the *Cent-Gardes*. The uniform of this body was first inaugurated at the *bal costume* by the Emperor himself.

The health of the Empress, though not in a state to excite any actual alarm, continues delicate. By the advice of her medical attendant, she takes sea-baths, the water for which is brought every day by rail from Dieppe, and the effect appears to be salutary. Visiting, a short time since, in company with the Emperor, one of the public charitable institutions, her Majesty, struck by the beauty of a child which a woman of the lower class was holding by the hand as the Imperial visitors were quitting the establishment, stooped and kissed it. In an instant the Empress was beset by some dozen of "anxious mothers," each presenting one of her offspring, many of which were in a state which rendered the process of ablation a highly desirable preliminary. The Empress however, nothing daunted by a demonstration of loyalty more flattering than agreeable, and which she, doubtless, considered would have been more honoured in the breach than in the observance, distributed kisses with due impartiality among the infant candidates, amid reiterated cries of "Vive l'Impératrice!" and earnestly-expressed wishes to the effect that her Majesty might soon have home claims for similar favours.

The theatrical *Censure*, which has lately been somewhat strict on the subject of hostile allusions to Russia, is now, at the point to which affairs have come, relaxing its surveillance, and allowing the expression of the public feeling to find its way through this channel. At the first repetition in costume of the new piece, "Constantinople," which is shortly to appear at the Cirque Napoléon, an incident expressive of this feeling, and amusingly characteristic of French impetuosity, occurred. At the moment when the party representing the Russian troops were about to pass the Danube, those playing the parts of the French soldiers attacked them so vigorously as not merely to drive the enemy back, as the programme of the piece required, but to repulse them with such roughness as to require the interference of the director, who was obliged to place himself between the combatants and insist upon their moderating their warlike ardour.

The officers of the garrison of Paris have appointed a commission for the organisation of a fête to be offered to the English *état-major*. The progress of events rendering a greater activity of measures necessary, the departure of the Maréchal St. Arnaud, which had again been deferred till the end of the month, is now stated as certain to take place by the 10th. An appeal made by the Minister of War to such soldiers of infantry as have ever served in the cavalry, or who have any knowledge of horsemanship, has collected a considerable body of recruits to the latter service, and a number of youths of the Jura, between sixteen and eighteen, have applied for means of conveyance to Toulon or Brest, in order to enter the navy.

The only party in France which still keeps aloof from the interest of the day, and views with the old feelings of national jealousy and prejudice, the alliance of England, is that of the Legitimists. Certain members of the party in question express aloud their regret that, as there must be war, the arms of France are not turned against England, instead of combating by her side! So much for the patriotism and common sense of the partisans of M. le Comte de Chambord!

The works of embellishment in the Bois de Boulogne are being carried on with undiminished activity, and are already giving a new aspect to that beautiful resort. Two lakes of very considerable extent—the one divided by a large island, wooded, and intersected by charming walks and both decorated with rock-work—are now completely excavated, and, only await the supply of water, which is to be brought by force-pumps from the Seine. Other improvements, in the way of planting and clearing, are also in progress; and such openings have been made as to afford, from an artificial mound at the head of the upper piece of water, a most extensive and beautiful view.

The theatres have nothing new of much interest. The *Variétés* has a piece entitled "L'Argent du Diable," which has a good deal of originality, and a reasonable share of success. The *Vaudeville* has produced a play called "La Vie en Rose," the distribution of the *rôles* of which has contributed somewhat to the amusement, if not to the edification, of the public, by causing a paper war in the daily press between Madame Page and Madame Doche, not on any question of art or general interest, but on the relative claims of the rival actresses to youth and inexperience—the latter point especially, each violently rejecting for herself, and indignantly casting on her antagonist the accusation of *experience* in her art. A more ridiculous correspondence has rarely occupied the columns of a journal.

The Empress, in order to encourage the lace trade, has ordered the different manufactories to prepare designs for the dresses, the one in *point d'Angleterre*, the other in *Chantilly*, to be examined by a jury, and those selected to be executed for the *Exposition d'Industrie*.

After the solemnities of Easter, the Archbishop of Paris intends to proceed to Rome, where, it is said, he purposed to remain some months.

On Sunday took place the second steeplechase at La Marche, which was, owing to the continued fineness of the weather, as brilliantly attended as the first.

The unfortunate Lieut. Bellot, whose melancholy death in the Arctic Expedition excited no less interest in England than in France, has left a most interesting journal, which has been set in order by his family, and is about to be published, with a portrait, and short biographical notice, by M. Julien Lemur.

##### THE ENGLISH CAVALRY IN FRANCE.

The *Constitutionnel* of Sunday says the English cavalry will not arrive in Paris for ten days; that they will, on their arrival, be lodged in the banlieue, until complete, and then enter Paris and be reviewed by the Emperor. The officers of the garrison of Paris are, it adds, getting up a banquet to be offered to the English officers. Saturday being the 1st of April, some wags played off a trick which took an immense number of persons to the station of the Northern railroad. They sent round circulars with a printed head, as if coming from the railroad company, inviting the persons to whom they were addressed to come in the evening to witness the arrival of the first squadrons of the English dragoons. This was not all. When the crowd had assembled, the same wags spread a rumour that the line of route had been changed, and that the English would arrive by the Rouen line. A few persons suspected the hoax, and went home; but the majority went off to the station of the Rouen line.

#### DEPARTURE OF FRENCH TROOPS FOR TURKEY.

An official article in the *Moniteur* states that the Emperor having ordered the departure of a *corps d'armée* to the Levant, first convoy of ships of the line, steam frigates and steam corvettes, has already put out to sea. The first convoy consisted of the following vessels—The *Alger*, the *Montebello*, the *Ville de Marseille*, and the *Jean-Bart*, 5400 men. The *Asmodée*, the *Ulloa*, the *Labrador*, the *Coligny*, the *Météore*, and the *Gorgon*, 3450 men and 225 horses. The *Mouette*, the *Eclaireur*, the *Laplace*, and *Infernal*, 1495 men and 40 horses. The *Cafarelli*, the *Véloce*, and the *Brandon*, 1120 men and 20 horses. The *Napoléon* and the *Suffren*, 3040 men. The *Montezuma*, the *Panama*, the *Altair*, the *Canada*, and the *Yan*, 4663 men and 80 horses. This total, with the contingent of the *Christophe-Colomb*, amounts to 20,078 men and 365 horses. Each day a part of the 200 commercial vessels chartered at Marseilles are setting sail, carrying out the cavalry, artillery, ammunition, stores, articles of encampment, &c.

#### ANOTHER OFFER FROM THE CZAR.

Prince George of Mecklenburg-Strelitz arrived in Berlin on Saturday, the bearer of a letter from the Emperor of Russia to the King of Prussia, in answer to the mission of General Lindheim. Its tenor is as follows:—"When the Western Powers succeed in securing the emancipation of the Christians in Turkey by treaty, the Czar will be willing to evacuate the Principalities simultaneously with the evacuation of the Euxine by the combined fleets."

#### THE GERMAN POLICY.

Most of the letters from Vienna speak of the Austrian Government having adopted a policy more favourable to the Western Powers; and some of them state that General Hess has succeeded at Berlin in inducing the Prussian Government to incline less towards Russia. Many facts are mentioned, however, which are of a nature to create doubts. The Austrian Government is making great military demonstrations, and has even, it is said, caused a bridge to be thrown over the Danube near Belgrade; but so long as Austria is not bound by a direct treaty with France and England, there is no guarantee that this preparation for war may not, if Russia should have any successes, be turned to her advantage. Several Austrian Generals, who have been summoned from the provinces, have arrived at Vienna to assist in a military council, and among them are the celebrated Baron Jellachich, from Hungary, and Count Giulai, from Lombardy. This may either be with a view to operations annoying to Russia, or a precaution against revolutionary movements in the event of the Austrian Government persisting in a neutrality which should excite distrust on the part of the Western Powers. We shall know nothing positive until we see the long-talked of Manifesto, and even that may be so drawn up as merely to form ground for conjecture as to the real intentions of Austria. The *Indépendance de Bruxelles* stated that the Manifesto had reached Paris, but this was not correct. Up to the 30th ult. it had not been published at Vienna. The *Cologne Gazette* mentions a circumstance which is very far from showing a disposition on the part of the Prussian Cabinet to do anything disagreeable to the Emperor of Russia. It has given orders for the free transit of the large quantity of muskets, on their way to Russia, which were stopped at the Prussian frontier.

#### RUSSIAN INTRIGUES IN MONTENEGRO.

The Emperor of Russia is said to be using all his efforts to stir up the Montenegrins to rebellion. Letters to Vienna, state that Russian couriers have lately been passing in rapid succession, between the mischievous little Russianised territory and St. Petersburg. The *Agram Gazette* also states that a courier from St. Petersburg had arrived at Cettinje in twelve days, bearing positive orders for the Montenegrins to attack the Turkish province of Herzegovina.

On the other hand, we are glad to see that Austria is resolved not to allow her frontier to be placed in danger by the Czar's revolutionary machinations.

The importation of ammunition and military supplies into Montenegro, from the adjoining Bay of Cattaro, has been forbidden by the Austrian Government, on the ground that such proceedings would be an act of hostility, and a breach of Austrian neutrality.

#### THE GREEK INSURRECTION.

Telegraphic despatches from Constantinople of the 27th ult. state that the Greek Ambassador there had applied for his passports.

According to reports from Albania and Greece, up to the 24th ult., the insurgents have not yet been able, in spite of all their efforts, to possess themselves of a single fortress. The troops of the fortress of Arta were 3000 strong; the besiegers numbered only 1550, and had not a single piece of cannon.

Sir Henry Ward has paid a visit to Fuad Efendi, at Preveza.

The English and French Admirals at Constantinople have sent off several war-steams, to prevent any hostile manifestation of the freebooters against the Turkish islands of the Archipelago. The *Gomer* and the *Highflyer*, under the orders of Admiral Barbier de Tinan, are now in the Greek waters.

When Nechet Bey, Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, asked that the Greek officers who had joined the insurgents should be recalled, the Government replied that they had resigned their commissions. When he complained that their resignations had been accepted, he received an evasive answer. The Government refused to admit that there were insurrectionary committees at Athens, although the fact is notorious. Seeing that the Greek Ministers were determined to evade all their obligations, Nechet Bey demanded his passports. The representatives of France and England have notified to the Greek Cabinet that their Governments will hold Greece responsible for the consequences of the rupture.

#### THE FLEETS IN THE BLACK SEA.

The news from Beicos Bay and Sebastopol is still very unsatisfactory. A letter from Constantinople, of the 20th, states that, immediately after the return of the *Retribution*, English frigate, and the *Caton*, French corvette, from the Danube, with information that the Sulina channel had been rendered impassable, and that 90 grain vessels had been shut up in the river, the two Admirals sent off the *Caradoc* with despatches for the Russian authorities at Sulina, demanding that the obstructions should be removed, and all merchant vessels in that part of the Danube be allowed to navigate freely. After leaving the Sulina, the *Retribution* and *Caton* proceeded to Sebastopol, and ascertained that the Russian fleet had not moved. Their report on the subject arrived at the very moment when the squadrons at Beicos were making preparations for departure, in order to look after the Russian fleet, which some masters of merchant vessels said they had seen at sea. The two English and French frigates, the *Samson* and *Cacique*, which returned on the 19th from the coasts of Circassia, had seen a division of seven Russian frigates, which bore away from them; and, at another time, a brig, which the bad weather prevented them from boarding. From the accounts brought by the *Cacique* and the *Samson*, it appears that the Russians have evacuated and destroyed all the small fortresses which they had constructed and occupied on the coast of Circassia; they only retain the two most important—Anapa and Sukhem-Kale. The ships of the allied Powers are said to have put themselves in communication with the Circassians, who are at present in an extraordinary state of agitation, and promise to resume hostilities more warmly than ever the moment the fine weather returns, and particularly so if they are supplied with arms and ammunition.

The statement that the Russian fleet had ventured out of Sebastopol, has been repeated by the *Indépendance Belge*, which says:—"It is now positively certain that while the Russians were crossing the Danube, five Russian steamers from Sebastopol, after having touched at Odessa, succeeded in disembarking 4000 soldiers on the island of Dunavetz, on the Dobrudja, at the entrance of the St. George's mouth of the Danube. Having accomplished this service the five Russian steamers regained the port of Odessa." Dunavetz is within two days' march of Babadagh, so that the Russians, by the aid of their ships, which it was understood Admiral Dundas had been commissioned to blockade, have been able to advance upon that important position without so much as the trouble of crossing the Danube. This statement of the Belgian paper confirms what Lord Clarendon said, when asked by Lord Malmebury if it was true that the Russian fleet had been seen on the coast of Circassia. Lord Clarendon, in reply, said the Russian vessels had not been seen in that direction, but in the neighbourhood of Perekop. The latter place is only about a hundred miles from the mouth of the Danube.

The *Caradoc* steamer, which arrived at Malta on the 30th ult., from Constantinople, brought news of the departure of the allied fleets on the 24th for Varna; to which place the *Inflexible* and other steamers were conveying troops, all armed with the Minie rifle.



## THE PASSAGE OF THE DANUBE.

The passage of the Danube by the Russians commenced on the 22nd in three columns, by means of four raft bridges. The principal column, under the orders of General Lüders, started from Galatz; Prince Gortschakoff crossed the river with the troops between Isakchia and Toltscha, protected and accompanied by the division of General Anrep; and the third column effected its movement below Brailow, at a place called Gerschit, on the right bank, but which is not mentioned in the maps. These forces amount together to 50,000 men, including 41 battalions of infantry, 3 regiments of cavalry, 1 of Cossacks, and 140 pieces of cannon. This movement in advance of the Russians has produced some uneasiness; but, strategically speaking, there is no cause for it. The Russian army, which is now on the right bank of the Danube, does not occupy one of those threatening positions by which events are ruled. It has arrived, not in Bulgaria, or on the road to Constantinople, but in the Dobrudja—that is to say, on an immense plain, intersected with marshes, without resources and without communications. It has behind it, between Toltscha and Matschin, a Turkish *corps d'armée* of 30,000 men with 60 pieces, under Halim Pacha; and before it a barrier of fortified places—Irsowa, Silistria, Custendje, Varna, and Schumla, which bar the road to the Balkans. It is thus difficult to explain the reason why Prince Gortschakoff has chosen this place for crossing the Danube. It is true that in 1828 the Russians entered the Dobrudja by Irsowa, in order to attack Varna and Silistria; but at that time they had possession of the Black Sea. The battle of Navarino had destroyed the Turkish navy, and the Russians were, therefore, free in all their communications. Irsowa, besides, is only half-way between Brailow and Bulgaria, and the Russians were not the less obliged to pass a month in forming an embankment in order to cross the marshes. As they are now deprived of the Black Sea, it is difficult to comprehend the movement which they have adopted.

Omer Pacha, who ought to know the effect of it, regards the passage of the river as the greatest piece of service the Russians could have rendered him. The movement, now that it has commenced, will continue; the Turks do not offer any resistance; Bucharest is about to be completely evacuated, all the troops who were in that place having received orders to march on the 1st of April towards the Danube. On the other hand, something significative is preparing on the Austrian frontier. An order has been given to form a movable head-quarters at Buda. The administrative personnel has been made, and all measures have been taken as if a forward movement was in contemplation. Steamers full of troops and with cannon every day go down the Danube, as if a military emigration were going on. The army on the frontier, including the inhabitants who are performing permanent military duty, is not less than from 120,000 to 150,000 men, although the contrary has been stated; and supplies are being collected on a very extensive scale.

The country into which the Russians have penetrated is described in some of the newspapers as a complete morass. More recent accounts characterise it as utterly sterile, through want of water. At Tchernavoda, the Danube approaches within thirty-four miles of the Black Sea, but is separated from it by a peninsula or tongue of high land, extending north, nearly opposite to Galatz; this peninsula is called Dobrudja. From Tchernavoda, a road runs to Kostendje, on the Black Sea, partly parallel with a stream, or rather a chain of lakes, called Karasou. At Bourlack the stream ceases, and the valley is shut in by hills crowned with downs, from which the sea is visible. Kostendje (Constantina), a small village on a height above the shore, has a little port, with remains of a Roman mole, now destroyed. From a point a little south of this, to Rassova, on the Danube, runs the rampart of earth called Trajan's Wall; behind which the Turks have entrenched themselves. The district of the Dobrudja is, at most seasons, a wilderness—partly owing to its having been deprived of its Tartar inhabitants, after 1829, by the Russians; but chiefly owing to its subsoil, which, excepting to the north extremity, where rise the hills of Matschin (granite?), consists of porous limestone, which retains no water, and furnishes no springs on the surface. Population is scanty, and villages widely scattered, and drinking water is obtained only through a few deep wells. Corn is scarcely cultivated at all; hay and fodder are very scarce; the scanty herbage dries up early in the summer, and the flocks of sheep and herds of buffaloes repair to the borders of the Danube for pasture. This desert extends south of the Wall of Trajan, nearly as far as Basarjik and Varna. It is not tenable by troops, unless they carry food, forage, and water with them. A canal was at one time projected between the Danube at Tchernavoda and the Black Sea at Kostendje; but a survey made by a Prussian engineer proved that the head of the valley of Karasou was 164 feet above the sea, and that not a drop of water was to be obtained on the summit-level (limestone hills) to feed a canal, if it was made.

Letters from Schumla of the 26th, describe the impression which the news of the passage of the Danube by the Russians at Ibraila had made upon Omer Pacha. He does not, they say, seem to have altogether anticipated so imprudent a step on the part of the Russians, simply because it was too good to be hoped for. He immediately advanced with the whole of his disposable forces, to make a counter-move at Rustchuk; whilst Achmet Pacha was at once instructed to take the offensive at Kalafat, and thus give them employment on their own side of the water.

## UNITED STATES.

The *Asia*, steam-ship, which sailed from New York on the 22nd ult., arrived at Liverpool on Monday. The most important political intelligence received, is that relating to the Nebraska Bill, which has been referred to a committee of the whole House. This is thought to be equivalent to its rejection. It is said that information has been received from Washington, to the effect that the United States Government has made a formal demand on Spain for some executive authority in Cuba, with power to settle such difficulties as that of the *Black Warrior*, with the United States, without the delay and inconvenience of sending to Madrid. Advices from Havannah, to the 14th ult., state that nothing of importance had transpired at Havannah since the seizure of the *Black Warrior*. She was still in possession of the Government authorities.

A violent storm prevailed along the coast from New York to Boston, on the 18th ult., which had inflicted a large amount of damage. In Canada, also, there appears to have been great destruction of property, caused by freshets. The number of bridges swept away had seriously interrupted traffic.

## NATIONAL SPORTS.

## CHELTENHAM STEEPEL-CHASES.—TUESDAY.

United Hunters' Stakes Handicap.—Charley, 1. Gaylad, 2. Grand Military Steeplechase.—Hawk, 1. The Linnet, 2. Berkeley Hunt Steeplechase.—Farmer, 1. Buckskin, 2. Selling Hurdle Race was won by Janus. Selling Steeplechase did not fill.

## WEDNESDAY.

Hunters' Stakes.—Stanley, 1. Macomo, 2. Grand Annual Steeplechase.—Trout, 1. Columbine, 2. Selling Steeplechase.—Bullfincher, 1. Janus, 2. Match, £50.—Valentine, 1. Emigrant, 2. Welter Stakes.—Robin Hood, 1. Breve, 2. Handicap Hurdle Race.—Freetrader, 1. Gay Lad, 2. Scurry Stakes.—Westwood, 1. Battery, 2.

## CROXTON PARK RACES.—TUESDAY.

Farmers' Plate.—Plantagenet, 1. Scurry Stakes.—Leybourne, 1. Scarcity, 2. Belvoir Castle Stakes.—Sine qua Non, 1. Folly o'the Day, 2. Granby Handicap.—Bourton, 1. Sacquet, 2. Sweepstakes.—F. by Epirus, 1. Donald, 2.

## WEDNESDAY.

Farmer's Handicap.—Iago, 1. Pastime, 2. The Cup.—Gerard, 1. Sackbut, 2. Billesdon Coplow Stakes.—Newman Noggs, 1. Dandy Jim, 2. Croxton-park Plate.—Georgey, 1. Lamartine, 2.

## EPSOM SPRING MEETING.—THURSDAY.

Trial Stakes.—Rataplan, 2. Cranbourne, 2. Railway Plate.—Orinoco, 1. Inder, 2. Two Year-Old Stakes.—Katerfelto, 1. Rose, 2. City and Suburban Stakes.—Virago, 1. Mark Antony, 2. Metropolitan Handicap.—Virago, 1. Muscovite, 2.

No betting announced.

## THE WAR ON THE DANUBE.

(From our Special Correspondent)

WIDDIN, March 10, 1854.

SYMPTOMS are rapidly appearing which furnish some idea of the intended movements of the Turks. The forces at Kalafat have been daily reinforced for some time past. Battalions of redifs, or troops of the reserve, more than 1200 strong, have been followed by squadrons of cavalry and masses of irregulars. Tents of every hue have been pitched, and filled with men. The ground, already well covered with barracks and underground huts, is now everywhere cut up into small ditches, in which horses may be sheltered from the wind. The bashi-bozouks—usually so lazy that they require the hope of plunder or fear of blows to force them to action—may be seen digging out these extempore stables, many of them having valuable Arab chargers, the loss of which would be to them irreparable. The regulars content themselves with picketing their steeds in rows, the poor beasts remaining thus exposed to all varieties of wind and weather. Their appearance and number make the camp look extremely busy. The arrival of so many reinforcements at this point is a proof that an advance into Wallachia is meditated by Omer Pacha. I think it will not be a betrayal of secrets to write to London that, within ten days, the troops in Kalafat will be increased to forty battalions of infantry and thirty squadrons of regular cavalry. The irregulars it is needless to count, although their number is even now considerable. The Russian movement towards Slatina and Karakal, and the withdrawal of so much of their force from the villages in front of the lines, are symptoms that the Generals of the Czar are in expectation of some movement across the Danube at a place lower down the stream. I am not certain, though I believe, that Omer Pacha intends to march two corps across the Danube at once; but, I am informed, that simultaneously with the advance of the troops from Kalafat into Lesser Wallachia, a corps of thirty-five battalions, amounting in all to 20,000 men, with thirty-four guns and cavalry, will cross the Danube at Nicopoli, under the command of Ismail Pacha. The troops are at present cantoned in Rahowa, Plevna, and Nicopoli. It remains to be seen whether so large a force as that just mentioned will be permitted to land in Wallachia unopposed. In this respect the advantage of possessing Kalafat is very great, and favourable to Turkey. It is evident from the document which I transcribe that its importance is not undervalued by the General-in-Chief, but, on the contrary, is rather considered in a more important light by him than by other persons qualified to give opinions on strategy.

Omer Pacha, Commander-in-Chief of the army of the Danube, thus addresses the corps at Kalafat in a general order, dated the 28th Djemaisjal eve 1270:—

Generals of Division and of Brigade, officers—superior and subaltern—non-commissioned officers, corporals, and soldiers of the Imperial army,—The position of Kalafat, which you gained with so much gallantry has at once become of the utmost importance to our cause. In your hands now rests the honour of the country. If you are able firmly to maintain that position by your bravery, and if you are ready to shed the last drop of your blood in its defence, the advantages which must inevitably follow will be innumerable. If, on the contrary, the enemy should succeed in storming your camp (which God in his greatness prevent), the honour of our country would be turned to shame before the world. The Sultan, our most gracious Sovereign, trusts entirely in your well-tried courage. May I count upon you? Possessed as you are of that extraordinary courage which you have so often exhibited, full of devotion to his Majesty and of love for your country, you will not say, our entrenchments are finished, and we have no more to do. Soldiers! I am certain that no fatigue will deter you from giving to the lines which surround your camp as much strength as possible. If the Russian army attacks us, you will fight with perseverance and courage; and, with God's assistance and the help of the Prophet, conquer it. Even should the enemy succeed in gaining one of your redoubts, you will take no step in retreat, but attack him with the bayonet, and expel him. Soldiers! if you fall, supreme happiness awaits you above. If you are victorious, honour and esteem are your reward on earth.

Whether this document be meant as an encouragement to the soldiers in the immediate expectation of an attack, or whether it is merely an official blind, it is difficult to say. It is hard to suppose, however, that Omer Pacha is really misinformed as to what is going on in Wallachia. He, doubtless, knows extremely well that there are no more than 12,000 Russians in front of Kalafat. The document which he has sent to the army of Kalafat, and which was read there with great ceremony before the troops, must therefore be an endeavour to conceal from the men the real meaning of the large reinforcements which daily pour into Kalafat.

The same system of allowing the enemy to appear before the lines, and depart unmolested, continues to be pursued, in order, probably, to further the end of blinding the Russians as to the real strength within the lines. On the 8th two squadrons of cavalry and a cloud of Cossacks made their appearance on the right of the intrenchment, drew themselves up in order of battle, and, being supported by two guns, waited for the Turks to come out. The position they had taken seemed so imprudent that the Turks determined on marching out, and accordingly twenty-two squadrons were called to horse, and emerged from the intrenchment at a place where their movements were concealed from the Russians. It would have been easy to capture or destroy the whole force of the enemy by cutting off the retreat of his squadrons; but, instead of doing this, the Turks went out and showed their force, which they might have concealed, and the Russians, after firing two shots from their six-pounders, disappeared at a gallop, and escaped without pursuit, from a most perilous position. Yesterday again the alarm guns were heard, and the batteries of the island beginning to play, informed us that the Russians had again appeared in the same direction as on the previous day. On this occasion, however, they had not committed the same imprudence as on the last; for there stood in masses on the plain, far out of gunshot from the forts, seven battalions of infantry, with twelve guns, five squadrons of regular cavalry, and hosts of Cossack skirmishers, who patrolled the front. The presence of the latter, who had at first advanced within the range of the lines, had been the signal of alarm, and one Cossack lost his life by a Turkish shot. Whilst the Russian force on our right was thus drawn up in battle array, another force of four battalions, cavalry and guns, was in position on the left between Golenz and Kalafat. With the exception of a few officers who went forward, and in whose company I had a tolerably near view of the Russians, the Turks sent out no single man. A few bashi-bozouks, with long rifles and a spirit of adventure, went out to exchange shots with the Cossacks, but Achmet Pacha, Moustapha Pacha, and Halib Pacha might be seen in an outer fort sitting on four-legged stools, smoking their chibouks, while all around them were the soldiers at the parapets officers of every grade, spying at the enemy through telescopes, foreign officers lounging, and Albanians in their gilded and laced dresses, looking into vacancy. For four hours the Russians stood in array without moving, after which, seeing that no enemy appeared, they retired.

P.S.—It is said that Omer Pacha's main movement will be at Matchin, on the Lower Danube. If the forces of England and France come up to support this movement, there is hardly a doubt that the Russians will find themselves in a disagreeable position. The English, it is affirmed here, will operate in the Crimea. It is certain that quarters are now prepared for them at Varna. Whether from thence they are to move towards Sebastopol or towards Schumla no one here knows with certainty. Doubtless, this is a point better known in England than at Kalafat.

THE point fixed upon in France, for the disembarkation of the British Cavalry, in that country, is generally supposed to be Havre. The number of emigrant ships which have taken their departure from Liverpool for the United States and Western Australia during the quarter just ended was 72, of an aggregate tonnage of 87,722 tons, and with steerage passengers to the number of 30,982.

## THE CAVALRY REGIMENTS.

ADDITIONAL regiments have received orders to hold themselves in readiness for embarkation, while others are at this moment waiting for transport. Several corps have reached Malta, and from thence departed, as it is said, for Gallipoli. But the cavalry destined for Turkey remain stationary at home; and but few artillery horses have been shipped.

The first ebullition of enthusiasm among the people having evaporated, the excitement of the moment gives place to less exuberant feelings. At the primary demonstration on the part of England in favour of the Turks, the generality stopped not to scrutinise details. It was enough to know that regiments were on the route for active service in behalf of an ancient ally. Inquiry at the moment did not exceed this point. Confident of success, the nation hailed the march of battalions with reiterated cheers; but the display of patriotism cannot long obscure rational reflection. It is now asked, and with apparent reason, why so much dilatoriness has been shown in rendering our aid to the Sultan? If it was purposed that the force destined for the seat of war should land together at a given point, the present proceedings negative such arrangement. Many of the vessels which conveyed regiments to Malta, returned after performing their contract, leaving the troops, certainly nearer the expected scene of action, but as powerless to reach it as though quartered in England. Ships carrying out the reliefs can only embark an equal number from the Mediterranean, leaving the augmentation stationary. Should steamers be despatched for conveying the latter, Government must encounter an enormous outlay. The intentions of the authorities respecting the embarkation of the cavalry have been variously asserted; but it is now generally understood it will march through a part of France. This branch of the service will not at present exceed 2000 horses; and, were they to go direct, convoyed by steam, it would save not alone expense, but an additional shipment, and consequent disembarkation, together with much time. The excuse of want of tonnage advanced as the reason for delay seems incredible. If the mercantile navy of England cannot embark so trifling a number of horses, we must greatly have overrated our capabilities for years past. But, unless a sufficiency of steamers are appropriated for the purpose of accompanying the cavalry transports, the horses will, in all probability, suffer greatly, and may prove useless on landing.

The experiment practised on some of the artillery horses by sending them without steam has met the expected result. The ships were for days delayed by contrary winds. One put into Plymouth after a gale, when she was found to be "crank." As yet, not a troop horse belonging to the cavalry has embarked, and in all likelihood they will be found in England at the termination of the week next ensuing.

Expedition is of vital importance to the cause we have espoused, and long before this the cavalry might have been shipped at one of our western ports, thus avoiding delay in getting down Channel. The cause of procrastination appears unaccountable. If the infantry reach Gallipoli without cavalry or artillery, they must persevere remain inactive until joined by such indispensable auxiliaries.

## DINNER TO THE EARL OF ELGIN.

A COMPLIMENTARY dinner was given by gentlemen connected with Canada to the Earl of Elgin, on Thursday evening, at the London Tavern: Lord John Russell in the chair.

Amongst the company present were—

The Duke of Hamilton, the Marquis of Abercorn, the Earl of Ellesmere, Lord Ashburton, Lord Glenelg, Lord Montagu, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Secretary-at-War; Mr. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Mr. Cardwell, President of the Board of Trade; Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P.; Sir John Fakington, M.P.; the Right Hon. Edward Ellice, M.P.; Sir Jas. Stephen, Sir John Young, Bart., M.P.; Chief Secretary for Ireland; the Hon. Francis Hincks, Prime Minister of Canada; the Lord Mark Kerr, Sir Francis Bond Head, Bart.; Mr. Buchanan, the United States Ambassador; Sir Emerson Tennant, Secretary of the Board of Trade; Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, Lieut.-General Sir James Macdonald, Sir Gore Ouseley, K.C.B.; General C. Webb (United States); Captain Sir George Back, R.N.; Mr. Frederick Peel, Under Secretary for the Colonies; Mr. Bernal Osborne, Secretary to the Admiralty; Hon. E. B. Beauvoir, M.P.; Mr. Poulett Scrope, M.P.; Mr. C. L. Cummings Bruce, M.P.; Mr. Keogh, Solicitor-General for Ireland; Mr. J. W. Freshfield, M.P.; Mr. Glynn, M.P., and Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., Agents for the Province of Canada; Mr. Edw. Ellice, M.P.; Mr. Laing, M.P.; Mr. Stirling, M.P.; Mr. Pete, M.P.; Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P.; Mr. James Heywood, M.P.; Mr. Pilkington, M.P.; Mr. C. B. Adderley, M.P.; Mr. Jackson, M.P.; Mr. Robert Stephenson, M.P.; Mr. Geach, M.P.; Mr. Kershaw, M.P.; the Hon. George Waldegrave; Mr. Benjamin Hawes, Deputy Secretary at War; Rear-Admiral Boxer, Rear-Admiral Tulloch; Mr. Roberts, Private Secretary to the Duke of Newcastle; Mr. Joshua Bates, Mr. T. W. C. Murdoch, Commissioner of Emigration; the Rev. Ernest Hawkins, Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; Mr. T. F. Elliott, Assistant Under Secretary of State for the Colonies; the Hon. Dominick Daly; Mr. R. W. Grey, Private Secretary to Lord Palmerston; Mr. T. B. Moore, Mr. T. E. Moss, the Master Cutler of Sheffield; Mr. H. S. Tremere, Professor Wilson, Mr. Franks, Mr. Mackillop, Mr. Carter, Mr. Chapman, Mr. J. J. Cummings, Mr. Thomas Poynder, Mr. Charles Bischoff, Sir Randolph J. Routh, Mr. Auldey, Mr. Charles Morrison, Mr. McCalmont, Mr. H. Wollaston Blake, Major Douglas, Mr. John Laird, Hon. S. Cunard, Mr. H. Hornby, Mr. Edward W. Mills, Mr. Charles Mills, Mr. Charles Baring Young, Mr. Russell Sturgis, Mr. Edward Baring, Mr. Bingham Mildmay, Major Ready, Mr. Bonus, Mr. Booking, Mr. Harold Liddel, Mr. William Tite, Mr. W. R. Chapman, Mr. Thomas McDonald, Mr. Gordon Thompson, Mr. Kirkman Hodgson, Mr. Peter Buchanan.

At half-past seven Lord John Russell entered the room, accompanied by Lord Elgin, who was received with plaudits by the brilliant and distinguished company whose names we have already enumerated. The banquet was of an unusually *recherché* character. Whatever the most profuse liberality, guided by the most fastidious taste, could procure, abounded on all hands; and every accessory that could minister to the enjoyment of such an occasion was forthcoming in superabundance: the appointments of the tables, and the general decorations of the room, being a theme of general admiration, no less than the rarity and excellence of the viands and wines.

Lord John Russell, in proposing the Earl of Elgin's health, delivered a characteristically "Constitutional" speech, in which, after a graceful allusion to the presence of the American Minister, he traced the rise and progress of Canada, its fiscal and legislative difficulties, and the degree in which its emancipation from the later of those was due to the wise and temperate policy pursued by the noble Earl.

Lord Elgin, in acknowledging the compliment, which he did at considerable length, gave a very comprehensive *résumé* of the history of the colony during his administration; and expressed, in feeling and eloquent terms, how much he had been indebted to the support he had ever received from the Home Government, no matter what party happened to be in power; and also made special allusion to the aid he derived from such gifted councillors as the Hon. Mr. Hinks, his Prime Minister, who was also present; and made an admirable speech, illustrative, in a brief compass, of the relations between the mother-country and the colony in respect to legislative measures, and the peculiar requirements of the public servants of Canada in their efforts to reconcile the different classes to the obligations they owed the local as well as the Imperial Government.

The remaining toasts of the evening were received with enthusiasm, and the whole proceedings passed off with the utmost éclat. A large number of ladies occupied the galleries; and an excellent musical party, under Mr. Frank Bodda, greatly enhanced the pleasure of one of the most remarkable and memorable reunions that have occurred in the metropolis for many years.

## THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K.T., GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

FEW families claim a more illustrious lineage, direct or collateral, than that of the distinguished recipient of Thursday night's banquet at the London Tavern. It is questionable, however, if there be any more creditable incident, at least in the civil annals of the heroic house of Bruce, than its present head being the guest of a circle of contemporary celebrities, whose miscellaneous political characteristics, apart from their exalted rank and intellectual eminence, rendered the assemblage, probably, the most remarkable of its kind that has done honour to any individual of our time, with the exception of the Duke of Wellington.

James Bruce, Earl of

common ancestry with the Royal family of the same name, so illustrious in the earlier records of Scotland. One of his comparatively later predecessors, Edward Bruce, of Blairhall, was among the Commissioners nominated to witness the nuptials of Queen Mary with the Dauphin, in 1558, and was supposed to have been poisoned—a circumstance but too significant of the long train of disasters that followed that luckless union. His second son, Edward Bruce, of Kinloss, was accredited by James VI. to the Court of Elizabeth to congratulate her Majesty upon the suppression of the commotions excited by the Earl of Essex; and furthered the interests of his Royal master so well in this mission, that, on his return, he was created Baron Bruce of Kinloss, county Elgin; and, on the accession of James to the throne of England, was nominated of the Privy Council, and appointed Master of the Rolls. Thomas, third Baron, was created Earl of Elgin in 1683; but Charles, fourth of that title, dying without surviving male issue in 1747, the family honours reverted to his relative and namesake, ninth Earl of Kincardine, descended from the third son of Edward Bruce, of Blairhall, already mentioned. Uniting the two dignities, his Lordship assumed the title of Elgin and Kincardine; and was succeeded, on his death in 1771, by his eldest son, William Robert, who died a few months afterwards; the Countess surviving him many years, and discharging with great credit to herself the responsible station of governess to the lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales. His Lordship's honours devolved upon his brother Thomas, who married the only daughter of William Hamilton Nisbet, Esq., of Dirleton, in Haddingtonshire.

This accomplished nobleman filled several important diplomatic appointments, and, while Ambassador Extraordinary in Turkey, formed the design of collecting and transporting to England the invaluable remains of Grecian art (chiefly consisting of decorations from the Parthenon) now in the British Museum, and known as the Elgin Marbles.

Lord Elgin married, in 1810, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of James Townshend Oswald, Esq., of Dunnikier, in Fifeshire; of which union the present Earl is the eldest child, being born in Park-lane, in 1811; consequently, he is now in his forty-third year—a very early age at which to date services so prolonged as those he has rendered to his country in exalted and responsible office. He received his education at Christchurch, Oxford; where, in addition to a large development of the hereditary predilection for art, he attained first class in Classics in 1832; and subsequently became a Fellow of Merton College. In 1841 he married Elizabeth Mary, only child of Lennox Cumming Bruce, Esq., of Roseisle, Stirlingshire; and the same year was elected to represent Southampton in Parliament—in the proceedings of which Assembly, however, he scarcely took part, owing to the death of his father, the November following, when he succeeded to the family honours. But though till then untried in public life, his administrative aptitude was discovered by the Cabinet in power at the time, and the result has been alike creditable to their prescience and his capacity. In March, 1842, he was nominated by the Earl of Derby (Lord Stanley), then for the second time Colonial Minister in Sir R. Peel's Ministry, as Governor of Jamaica, where, singularly enough, he succeeded Sir Charles (afterwards Lord) Metcalf, whom he subsequently succeeded in Canada (Lord Cathcart intervening); and higher praise can hardly be bestowed upon Lord Elgin than the fact, that in either sphere he proved himself in every way worthy of so impartial, enlightened, and discriminating a predecessor. For four years, during a most eventful period in the history of the island, while, in what may be called the transition stage of society consequent on recent legislative alterations affecting the staple of the colony, he conducted its affairs with exemplary prudence, and with a degree of satisfaction to the inhabitants of which vivid remembrance is borne to the present day.

In August, 1846, his Lordship resigned the Governorship of Jamaica, and in the following month was appointed Governor-General of Canada, with a salary of £7000 per annum. Of his conduct in this important post, perhaps the most emphatic eulogium that can be expressed is con-

THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K.T., GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

veyed in the fact, first, that he has been continued in it by four successive Colonial Ministers, and, secondly, that these four were all at the festival in his honour, on Thursday night—viz., Mr. Gladstone, Earl Grey, Sir John Pakington, and the Duke of Newcastle; while the president of the evening, Lord John Russell, had likewise filled the same office, as also had another of those present, Lord Glenelg. Thus was the conduct of Lord Elgin as a Colonial Governor practically sanctioned in the most complimentary manner by six Secretaries of State for the Colonies. A seventh may be virtually said to have done so too; for the Earl of Derby, in declining the invitation on the score of an important prior engagement, expressed his "respect and regard" for the guest of the evening; and, moreover, the noble Earl's son, Lord Stanley, was present.

When Lord Elgin assumed the government of Canada, he took the earliest opportunity to avow the principles on which he proposed to administer the trust reposed in him by his Sovereign, and this avowal obtained for him the general confidence of the Canadian people. The Administration which he found in power had, from a sense of its own weakness, endeavoured during the Governments, both of Lord Metcalf and Earl Cathcart, to strengthen itself by obtaining the assistance of leading members of the Opposition of French origin. These

attempts were continued by them during the early part of the Earl of Elgin's Government, his Lordship affording every facility to the members to effect a coalition. After the failure of these negotiations, the Administration, not feeling itself sufficiently strong to meet Parliament, resorted to a dissolution, the result of which was, that on the meeting of the new Parliament, a vote of want of confidence was carried by a considerable majority. On this the Ministry resigned; and the Earl of Elgin sent for a leading member of the Opposition, with whose aid he formed an Administration possessing the confidence of the majority of the Commons House of the Canadian Parliament. Since that period to the present, the same party has furnished the members of the Administration, although many changes have taken place in the position of individuals. It would be wholly out of place here to discuss the political measures brought forward by the advisers of the Earl of Elgin. According to the recognised principles of the Canadian Government, the Ministers of the Crown are responsible for every act of the Government, and from that responsibility they have never shrunk. It must not, however, be supposed that the Governor-General's duties are either light or unimportant. The zeal displayed by the Earl of Elgin in advancing the material interests of the province, by countenancing every measure calculated to promote them, has been admitted on all hands. His able despatches to the Secretary of State for the Colonies have been read with admiration by Canadians of all classes; who have likewise appreciated his efforts to promote, by the offer of prizes and otherwise, all really useful projects for the improvement of the agriculture, commerce, or export manufactures of the province. Although at particular periods of the Earl of Elgin's Government party politics unfortunately ran higher than the true friends of their country would desire, yet his Lordship, by maintaining inflexibly the position which he had assumed at the outset, and which he himself most happily characterised as one of "dignified neutrality," has succeeded in obtaining the great confidence and respect of the Canadian people, and the admiration not only of the most distinguished English statesmen of all parties, but likewise those of the great Federal Republic, who have been watchful observers of passing events in Canada. Hence the presence at Thursday's banquet of the Minister from Washington to the Court of St. James's, which exhibits, in the most unmistakable manner, that thoroughly friendly feeling between the two freest, wealthiest, and most advancing countries in the world, and which is a guarantee for the ultimate liberties and progress of mankind, let despotism deport itself as overbearing as it may for the moment in other quarters.

Lord Elgin finds a most effective auxiliary to his deserved popularity in the person of his present estimable and accomplished Countess. This lady, the life and light, as she is the ornament, of the circle which her husband's courteous hospitality, no less than his official position, draws around him, has also hereditary claims on Canadian feeling. She is the eldest surviving daughter of the late Earl of Durham, formerly Governor-General of Canada; his son, her brother, the present Earl, being also among those who assembled to honour Lord Elgin on Thursday.

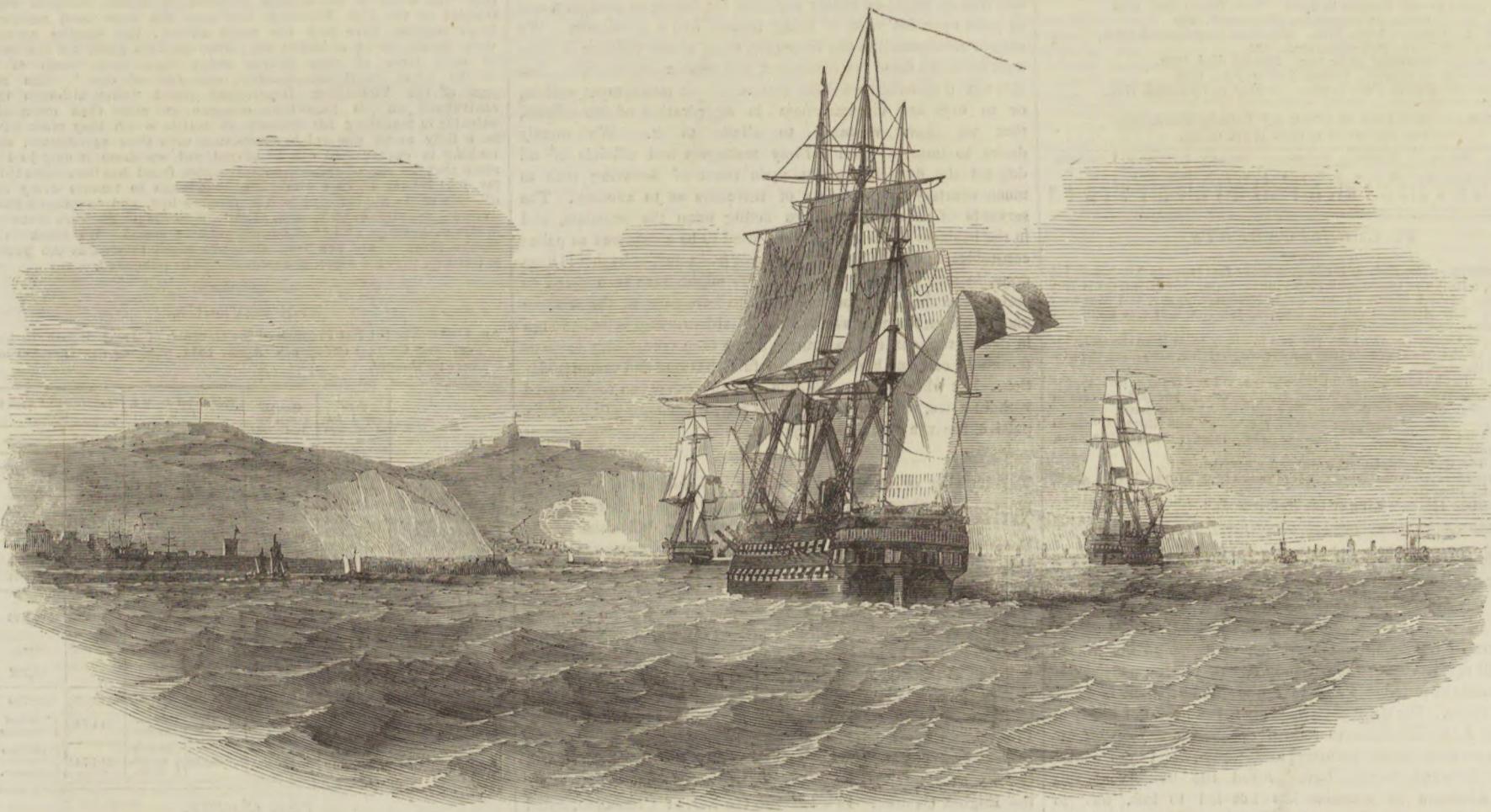
#### TROOPS AT ALEXANDRIA.

A CORRESPONDENT at Alexandria has favoured us with the accompanying Sketch of part of the Egyptian contingent for the Turkish army. A very large force (says our Correspondent) is collected here, variously estimated at from seventeen to twenty thousand men, two-thirds of whom are destined for the seat of war. Twelve thousand men were reviewed outside the walls this morning (the 18th ult.), one-third of whom marched through the Grand Square in the forenoon, and presented a very fine *coup d'œil*—the day being remarkably fine, an unusual thing of late here, the weather having been for some time very severe, cold and heavy rain being the order of the day.

The large building on the extreme right of the View is the Dutch Consulate; next is the French Consulate, the Belgian Consulate, the entrance to the Frank-street, and the Public Clock.



TROOPS AT ALEXANDRIA, PART OF THE EGYPTIAN CONTINGENT FOR THE TURKISH ARMY.



THE FRENCH SCREW WAR-STEAMER "AUSTERLITZ," PASSING DOVER.

## THE FRENCH BALTIC SQUADRON.

The *Austerlitz*, 100 guns, French steam-ship, of which we have given a sketch as it was seen from Dover on the afternoon of Sunday week, sailed from Brest on the 20th ult., to join Sir Charles Napier's fleet in the Baltic. In passing Dover, accompanied by the *Conflict* steam-ship, the *Austerlitz* saluted the port, a compliment which was returned from the Drop Redoubt. She cast anchor in the Downs that evening, and on Tuesday sailed for Wingo Bay, where, however, she does not appear to have arrived till after the English fleet had left that station. A telegraphic despatch, dated April 4, afternoon, Krog Bay, (about a couple of hours' sail south of Copenhagen) says:—"The *Austerlitz* and other ships are visible from the mast-head of the *St. Jean d'Acre*." The other ships mentioned in the despatch will probably be the other vessels belonging to the French Baltic squadron, which sailed from Toulon about the same time as the *Austerlitz* sailed from Brest.

The following is the order of the day addressed by Vice-Admiral Parseval Deschênes, to the commanders, officers, and sailors of the Baltic Squadron:—

Called on by the Emperor to the honour of commanding you at a moment when your courage may be useful to the country, I feel the most lively satisfaction at finding myself once more in the midst of you. As I have frequently done in my long career, I am about once more to appreciate that discipline, that devotedness to their duty, and that abnegation of French seamen which lead to success, and which render me proud to be at your head. Let your confidence in me be as in times past: mine is assured to you. Let us unite all our efforts at the outset of a laborious campaign; and let us know, in the accomplishment of our task, how to inspire ourselves with the sentiments of patriotism which must be caused by the cry of "Vive l'Empereur!"

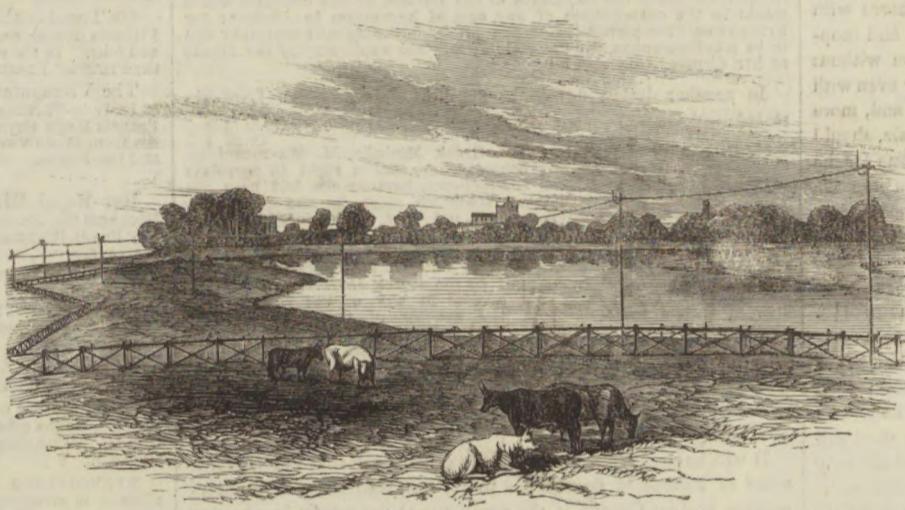
## THE RAILWAY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH IN INDIA.

MADRAS (writes a Correspondent from Fort St. George, Feb. 8), will, before two months have passed, be placed in electric communication with Bangalore. The telegraph, which has been begun (as the accompanying

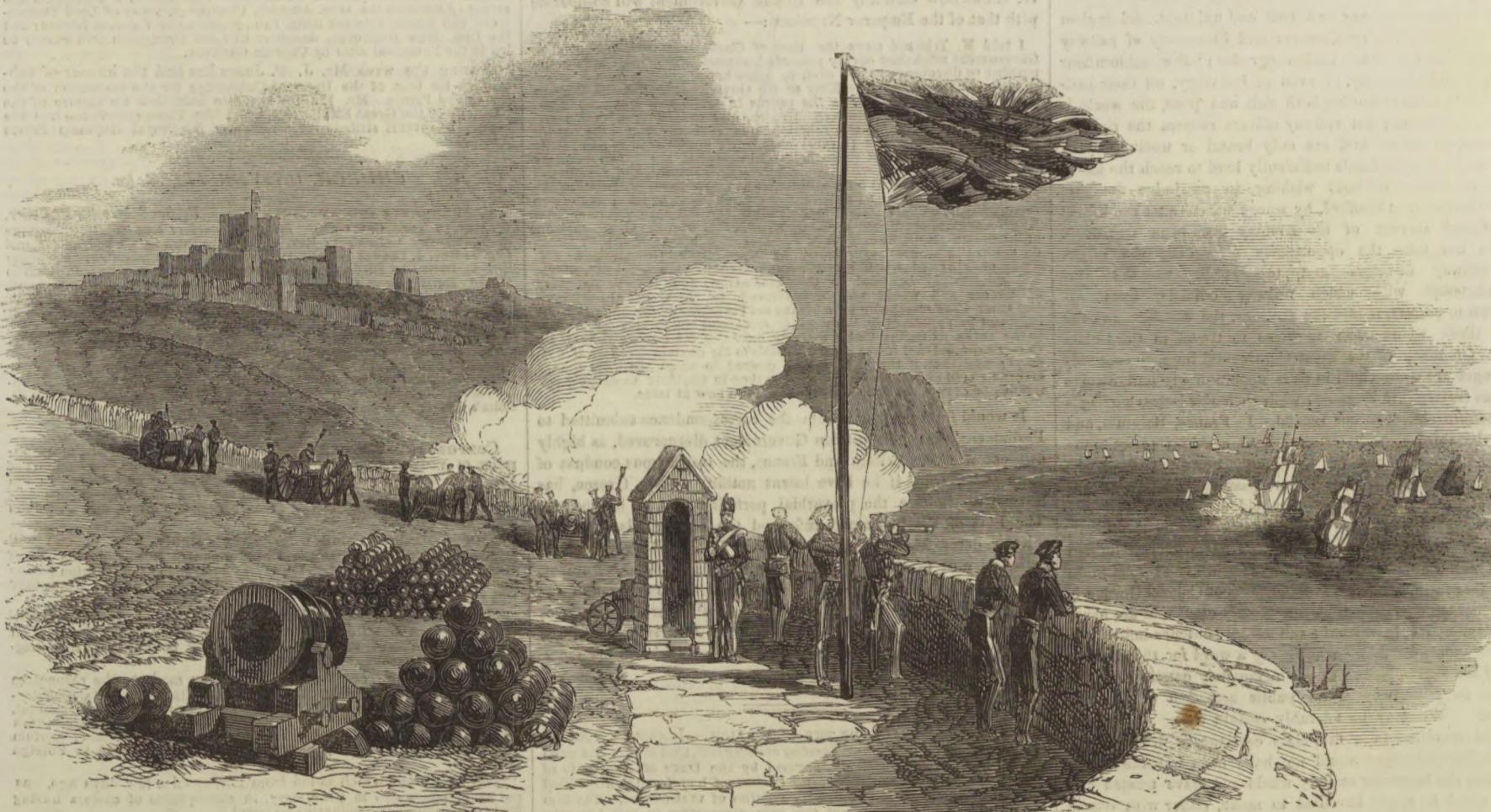
Illustration will show) has already been extended as far as Poonamallee, a place about thirteen miles from Madras. The line commences in the Fort, on one of the south ramparts, where two tents have been pitched for the accommodation of the superintendent; the line then cuts across the Esplanade and the road which leads to the South Beach, the only place in Madras where there is any amusement, if such it can be called; the garrison band, and the band of the European corps which may be stationed at Fort St. George, play alternately nearly every evening on the beach; and a double object is gained by resorting thither of an evening—the enjoyment of the sea-breeze, and a little music; the former most precious, indeed, to one subject to the relaxing heats of an Indian climate.

The building to the left, seen in the distance, and which is almost hidden from view by trees, is known by the name of the "Marine Villa"; it formerly belonged to the Nabob of the Carnatic, who presented it to the Government of Fort Saint George. It is a favourite residence of Sir Henry Pottinger's during the summer months, in consequence of its proximity to the sea. The other building in the distance is the Nabob's Palace.

RETURNING THE COMPLIMENT.—In the year 1543 the Sultan Selim II., at the request of the King of France, sent a large army and fleet to his assistance, under the command of the celebrated Turkish Admiral Barbarossa, who, according to the record, was the grandson of a French renegade. This army and fleet occupied the town and port of Toulon at the express wish of Francis I., from the end of September, 1543, to the end of March, 1544. And in March, 1854, a French army and fleet have sailed from the same port of Toulon to succour the descendant of the Sultan Selim in his distress.



THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH AT MADRAS



RETURN OF "THE AUSTERLITZ" SALUTE, AT DOVER.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, April 9.—6th Sunday in Lent. Lord Bacon died, 1626.  
 MONDAY, 10.—Catholic Emancipation Bill passed, 1829.  
 TUESDAY, 11.—Canning born, 1770. Napoleon I. abdicated, 1814.  
 WEDNESDAY, 12.—Amerca discovered, 1492.  
 THURSDAY, 13.—Maunday Thursday. Handel died, 1759.  
 FRIDAY, 14.—Good Friday. Bishop Portius died, 1809.  
 SATURDAY, 15.—Easter Term begins. Mutiny at Spthead, 1797.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE.  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 1854.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
11 40	No Tide	0 10	0 35	0 55	1 15	1 35

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SUBSCRIBER.—The Duke of Wellington is 273 feet long, 59 feet beam, 24 feet hold; 700-horse power, and 3750 tons burthen. The Himalaya is 372½ feet long, 46 feet beam, 25 feet hold; 700-horse power, and 3550 tons burthen. The Afrata is 350 feet long, 42 feet beam, 34 feet hold; 300-horse power, and 3466 tons burthen.  
 G. P.—Upper Clapton.—The best persons to apply to, will be the superintendent of the dockyard, or the master shipwrights, who have the disposal of the tickets.  
 J. D.—The thanks of Parliament were given to Lord Gough, in 1849, for "the conspicuous intrepidity" displayed by him in the last contest in the Punjab, which was terminated by the victory of Goojerat.  
 FER PALE.—Burke's "Encyclopaedia of Heraldry" and Burke's "Commoners" are perfectly distinct works. The former is much fuller than Edmonson.  
 J. DE L.—The Queen might have married a commoner.  
 A SUBSCRIBER.—An Admiral of the Red ranks first, of the White next, and of the Blue third.  
 G. C.—William III. is "King of the Netherlands."

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1854.

THE quarterly returns of the Revenue, made up to the 5th of April, will rejoice the hearts, not only of the British people, but of the friends of the liberty and independence of nations in every part of Europe. For the last eight years it has been the policy of successive Administrations to reduce or abolish imposts of injurious operation upon industry and trade; and year after year the Revenue returns have proved the wisdom of this course. Abolition of taxation has not led to loss, but to increase, of Revenue. The returns for the last quarter are of the same gratifying description. The Emperor of Russia enters upon war with a depreciated and paper currency, with a trade that our hostilities will seriously injure, if they do not ruin; and with no means, except the forced contributions of his subjects, for raising the supplies necessary to support the war. Great Britain, on the contrary, commences the struggle with a surplus of Revenue over Expenditure, with an increasing commerce with every part of the world, and with taxation at so low and inoppressive a point, as to leave ample room for its extension without seriously interfering with the necessities and pursuits, or even with the luxuries, of the people. The Emperor of Russia, and, more especially, the wavering Sovereigns of Austria and Prussia, should take warning from these facts. The increase of Revenue for the year ending on the 5th of April, over the year ending on the 5th of April, 1853, amounts to £1,485,056. The increase on the quarter, over the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, amounts to £213,744. There is a decrease in the Customs for the quarter as compared with the returns for April, 1853, of £106,891; caused, no doubt, by the reduction of the tea-duties to the extent of 4½d. per lb. There is also a decrease of £155,231 upon the Excise, caused by the total abolition of the duty on soap. Upon the financial year there is, however, an increase in all these; and, indeed, in every other branch of Revenue, with the sole exception of the Miscellaneous. These figures need no comment; they will tell their own story; and will be a source of gratification not only to the statesmen and legislators, to whose enlightened commercial and fiscal policy we owe the result, but to the whole population of these islands.

WE too often hear of railway accidents and unintentional neglect of duty arising from the carelessness and incapacity of railway officials, both of the higher and the lower grades; but we seldom hear of any acts of gross brutality, or even of incivility, on their part. When accidents occur, affecting both rich and poor, the world is duly informed of them; but railway officers respect the rich, or those supposed to be so, and are only brutal or uncivil to the poor, who make no complaints sufficiently loud to reach the ear of newspaper readers. Without wishing to pre-judge the case against the Inspector at Stafford, by whose misconduct the life of a distinguished servant of his country has been sacrificed, we cannot but take the opportunity of calling the attention of railway directors and the public to the systematic contempt with which railway officials, from directors down to porters, regard the feelings, the comfort, and the health of those whom necessity forces to travel in third-class carriages. On many of the great Continental lines, the second-class carriages are quite equal in their appointments and fittings to first-class carriages in England; while their third-class carriages are more comfortable than our second. In France, Belgium, and Germany, the third-class passengers have cushions to sit upon and to lean against, and are thoroughly protected from the weather. In England a second-class passenger may get civil treatment; but a third-class passenger seldom obtains a taste of a commodity so cheap and yet so agreeable. But, on the Continent, railway servants not only treat third-class passengers as human beings, but bestow upon them quite as much courtesy as upon those who pay higher fares. The lamentable death of Colonel Gordon is no more remarkable in itself than many other cases that are never brought under notice, in which the sufferers are obscure individuals who have none to take their part, or say a word for them. It is the rank of the victim, as well as the melancholy catastrophe of his death, that so powerfully draws public attention to this particular case. We may be tolerably certain that, if Colonel Gordon had travelled in a first-class carriage, a drunken and offensive fellow-passenger would not have been obstructed upon him, and that the Inspector on duty would not have treated any complaint which he might have had to make, either with coarse incivility or brutal outrage. But, being only a third-class passenger, it was thought that the companionship of a man

maddened by excess of drink was good enough for him, and that he might be rudely assaulted for daring to complain and to insist upon his right of being treated like a gentleman. We cannot anticipate that the Inspector, upon whose violence of conduct we make these few comments, will remain unpunished. But it is not to speculate what the amount of his punishment will be, or to urge any circumstances in aggravation of his offence, that we have ventured to allude to it. We merely desire to impress upon railway managers and officials of all degrees the duty incumbent upon them of behaving with as much courtesy to one class of travellers as to another. The servants of railway companies acting upon the premises, and in the business of their employers, used to be considered as police constables; and if the Stafford Inspector had acted, as he should have done, in that capacity, a valuable life might have been saved to society, and the Inspector himself might have escaped the trial for manslaughter, that now awaits him. Wealth-worship is bad enough in itself, even if it lead to nothing worse than sycophancy towards those who can pay both for respectful behaviour and accommodation. But when neither the one nor the other can be procured without a fee, which the poor cannot pay, it becomes still more repulsive, because it becomes inhuman.

THE inability or unwillingness of the *roi-fainéant* of Greece to prevent his subjects and generals from aiding the insurrection in Albania, threatens to seriously complicate the difficulties of the Eastern Question. The Ottoman Government having reason to believe in the complicity of the Greek Monarch with the Albanian insurgents, has suspended diplomatic relations with the Court of Athens, and if the insurrection be not immediately suppressed, will, no doubt, follow up this step, by a declaration of war. The Greeks need expect no sympathy from Europe, and will find to their cost that their patron, the Czar, will not be able to render them any aid in the measures that will be taken against them, not only by Turkey, but by France and England. The French and English Governments are quite decided as to the course they will adopt. The feelings of the French Government with respect to the Insurrection are identical with those of the English Cabinet. In a letter to the Earl of Clarendon, dated February 10, Lord Cowley stated that:—

M. Drouyn de Lhuys had informed him that the last accounts received by the French Government from Greece represent so much excitement to prevail against the "Turks"—excitement which had already led to a collision in the neighbourhood of Arta—that he had at once written to the French Envoy at Athens, directing him to call the immediate attention of the Greek Government to this state of things. The French Government offered the Greek Government the choice between the advantages which must follow the observation of a strict neutrality, throwing into her hands the commerce of the Levant, or the disasters which would be the consequence of any acts of aggression in Turkey; for France would not permit Greece to enjoy the advantages of neutrality and to be belligerent at the same time; and she would employ the means at her disposal to prevent it.

In another letter, dated the 22nd of February, his Lordship stated:—

M. Drouyn de Lhuys told the Greek Minister, M. Mavrocordato, that France, more than any other Power, had a right to complain of the conduct of the Greek Government, because she had been the Power which had unfortunately stood up most for the honest intentions of the Greek Government, but that she could not tolerate the present state of things. It was nonsense, said the French Minister, to say that the Greek nation was *entrainé*, as was pretended, in this war. There was no *entrainement* but what was fostered by the King and Queen, and encouraged by the Greek Government. Not a soul in the Peloponnesus—not a soul in any of the islands—had stirred; a few brizands from the interior of the northern provinces were the only culprits. But M. Drouyn de Lhuys said that it was useless addressing the Greek Ministers; and that perhaps M. Mavrocordato would do well to lay personally before the King a faithful exposition of the dangers he was incurring. M. Mavrocordato replied, that, without leaving Paris, he could ensure the King's being made acquainted with the sentiments of the French Government, and that he would write to his Majesty immediately.

It will be seen from these significant passages that the Government of France is determined to act in a resolute and summary manner against Greece, if the perfidious Court persist in abetting insurrection in the dominions of the Sultan. The following letter, from the Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Wyse, under date February 16, shows how cordially the British Government will co-operate with that of the Emperor Napoleon:—

I told M. Tricoupi (says the Earl of Clarendon) that, although his Government might not openly promote insurrection, yet they, in fact, did nothing to discourage it, nor even to make known that it would be regarded unfavourably by the King or his Government, that the Russian organ in the press was calling the people to arms, and announcing the speedy downfall of the Ottoman Empire, and the triumph of Russia; and that no sign of disapprobation was ever given by the organs of the Government; nor (I said) were other proofs wanting to justify the belief—now general throughout Greece—that the insurrectionary movement was viewed with favour by the Government, and I distinctly warned M. Tricoupi that his Government had now to choose between the goodwill of England and France and the blockade of Athens; as the two Governments, while engaged in defending the Ottoman territory from Russian aggression, would certainly not tolerate that the Greek subjects of the Sultan should be excited to rebel against his authority, in consequence of measures sanctioned by the Greek Government. M. Tricoupi expressed much alarm at the thought of a blockade, which, he said, would be fatal to the commerce and mercantile navy of Greece, and would not be deserved, as the Greek Government had made itself unpopular by carrying out the wishes of her Majesty's Government in opposition to the popular sentiment which was most bitter to the Turks. I replied that I was well aware of the unpopularity of the Government, but that it was not attributable to the cause assigned by M. Tricoupi; and that, if the Government desired to avoid the evils that a blockade would entail, they must lose no time in adopting an entirely different line of conduct upon the great question now at issue.

It would further appear from the correspondence submitted to Parliament, that the Austrian Government disapproved, as highly as those of Great Britain and France, the treacherous conduct of King Otho, who, if he have learnt nothing else in Greece, has learned to imitate the proverbial perfidiousness of his people. The Earl of Westmoreland informed the Earl of Clarendon, in a letter dated March 1st, that "Count Buol had expressed his satisfaction at the policy declared by her Majesty's Government, and had made similar representations at Athens, through the Austrian Minister;" so that in this, as in all other circumstances in connection with the Eastern Question, Austria has had the sagacity to know the right course, if she have not, in all instances, had the courage to pursue it.

THE HAY CONTRACT FOR THE ADMIRALTY.—It appears from the proceedings in Parliament on Tuesday evening last, that Messrs. Sturgeon and Sons, of Graye, in Essex, accused by the Duke of Newcastle of having furnished to the Admiralty trusses of hay fraudulently filled with straw, shavings, and chaff, were guiltless of that offence. The firm of Sturgeon and Sons were not the only contractors in this business. The quantity of hay required by Government was seven hundred and fifty loads, of which not more than fifty were provided by Messrs. Sturgeon. In a report read to the House of Commons by Mr. Bernal

Osborne, furnished to him by Colonel Whinneys, that officer stated that "the whole of the supplies delivered by Messrs. Sturgeon were rejected on the 27th February, and none has since been received. Their supplies have been the worst offered; the samples opened were found to be of mixed hay, some portions good, but the bulk of each truss of very inferior sedgy marsh hay, much of it of the worst description—mouldy, and full of dust." The report of the Victualling Department stated "that, although the contractors on this important occasion are more than ordinarily culpable in tendering for delivery an article which they must have been fully aware was not in accordance with their agreements, and nothing in explanation can be offered, yet we deem it only just to state that we are of opinion no systematic fraud has been intended; for, had it been so, care would have been taken to remove every indication of its not being upland or meadow hay, and to cause a good external appearance to be presented." Who the parties were that sent in straw, shavings, and chaff, has not yet been stated. We think that Messrs. Sturgeon and Son have almost as much interest as the public in insisting that the name, or names should be published.

## THE REVENUE.

An Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of Great Britain, in the Year and Quarter ended 5th April, 1854, showing the Increase or Decrease thereof.

	Year ended 5th April, 1854.	Quarter ended 5th April, 1854.	Year ended April 5, 1854.	Quarter ended April 5, 1854.
Customs ..	£ 18,871,322	£ 4,325,941	£ 358,143	..
Excise ..	13,473,872	1,943,350	88,374	..
Stamps ..	6,494,938	1,651,699	65,913	..
Taxes ..	3,241,701	193,309	47,430	..
Property-tax ..	5,975,677	2,567,714	382,634	87,833
Post-office ..	1,104,000	282,000	59,000	415,481
Crown Lands ..	395,888	65,000	143,888	..
Miscellaneous ..	167,544	10,687	..	103,970
<b>Total Ordinary Revenue ..</b>	<b>49,724,952</b>	<b>11,045,700</b>	<b>1,145,382</b>	<b>103,970</b>
Imprest and other Moneys ..	934,309	276,316	219,591	..
Repayments of Advances ..	1,338,601	111,072	224,053	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,997,862</b>	<b>11,433,088</b>	<b>1,589,026</b>	<b>103,970</b>
Deduct Decrease ..	..	..	103,970	{ Deduct Decrease
				{ Deduct Decrease
Increase on the Year ..	..	..	1,485,056	{ Increase on the Year.
				{ Increase on the Quarter.

## THE COURT.

On Monday the Queen received the Addresses from both Houses of Parliament, and afterwards gave audiences to the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord John Russell, Sir James Graham, and the Duke of Newcastle. In the evening the Queen had a dinner party; the company including her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the French Ambassador and the Countess Walewski, the Duchess of Inverness, the Earl and Countess Cowper, Viscount Drumlanrig, Viscount and Viscountess Mahon, Lord Adolphus Fitzclare, Lady and Miss Peel, Col. Wylde, and Mr. Gibbs.

On Tuesday the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Princess Royal and the Princess Alice, took a drive in an open landau and four. In the evening their Majesty and the Prince Consort honoured the Princess' Theatre with their presence.

The Viscountess Canning has succeeded the Countess of Desart as Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen. Lord Charles Fitzroy and Lieut.-Col. Francis Hugh Seymour have relieved Col. the Hon. C. Grey and Capt. the Hon. H. de Ros in their duties as Equestrain to the Queen and the Prince.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester on Tuesday, at Gloucester House. Her Royal Highness, attended by Lady Anna Maria Dawson and Lord James Murray, honoured the Olympic Theatre with her presence on the same evening.

The Duke and Duchess of Montrose entertained at dinner, on Sunday, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and a distinguished party. The Duchess of Montrose intends to pass the approaching Easter recess in Paris.

The Duke of Argyll (Lord Privy Seal) gave a grand dinner to the Cabinet Ministers on Wednesday evening.

The Countess of Clarendon held a "reception" on Wednesday evening, at the official residence of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in Downing-street. The réunion was very full and fashionably attended.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES IN HIGH LIFE.—A matrimonial alliance is arranged, and will shortly take place, between the Earl of Mountcharles, eldest son of the Marquess of Conyngham, and the Lady Jane St. Maur Stanhope, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of the late Earl of Harrington; the preliminaries are also arranged for the marriage of the Earl of Durham with the Lady Beatrice Hamilton, second daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of Abercorn; a marriage is also arranged between the Hon. Augusta Chichester, sister of Lord Templemore, and Robert Edward King, Esq., grandson of Viscount Lorton; and the Hon. Miss Hobhouse, daughter of Lord Broughton, will shortly be led to the nuptial altar by Captain Carleton.

During the week Mr. J. F. Jones has had the honour of submitting his bust of the Duke of Cambridge for the inspection of the Queen and Prince. Mr. Phillips has also exhibited his picture of the "Council of the Great Exhibition;" and Mrs. Thorneycroft has had the honour of several sittings for a statue of his Royal Highness Prince Arthur.

## CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &amp;c.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—*Prebendal Stall*: The Rev. W. Hey to York Cathedral. *Minor Canonries*: Rev. W. W. Johnstone to Manchester Cathedral; Rev. — to Durham Cathedral. *Rectories*: Rev. J. Deedes to Sutton; Rev. T. Sikes to Dunstable. *Rectories*: Rev. C. Bailey to Elsdon, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Rev. P. Brett to Mount Bures, near Colchester; Rev. H. Dowson to Little Horsted, near Uckfield; Rev. W. Elliott to All Saints Church, Worcester; Rev. H. J. Hawke to Willingham by Stow, Lincolnshire; Rev. T. W. Preedy to Kittersford, Somerset; Rev. G. V. Reed to Hayes, Kent; Rev. J. C. Rowlatt to St. Paul's, Exeter; Rev. F. Stonehouse to Honley, near Warwick. *Vicarages*: The Rev. J. Graves to Kilmacor, Kilkenney; Rev. W. L. Scott to Athorp, near Towcester. *Incumbencies*: The Rev. J. Cronshaw to St. Thomas's, Wigan; Rev. G. Freeman to Emmanuel Church, Bolton-le-Moors; Rev. Rowland Hill to Wormsley; Rev. W. Verdon to St. John's Church, Pendlebury.

CORPORATION ENACTMENTS.—In the town books of the corporation of Youghal, county of Cork, among other singular enactments of that body, are two which will now be regarded as curiosities. In the years 1680 and 1703, a cook and a barber received their freedom, on condition that they would respectively dress the mayor's feasts, and shave the corporation gratis.

THE COLOGNE CHORAL SOCIETY (eighty men voices) will commence their concerts at the Hanover-square Rooms, on the 5th of May. The appearance in London of this unrivalled Choral Union will be limited, as last year, to a short period of fifteen days, during which they will give eight concerts.

ORERY.—Next week (Passion-week) Mr. C. H. Adams will deliver his popular lecture on Astronomy, at the Adelphi Theatre, on every evening except Friday. The lecture will be illustrated with magnificent transparent moving scenery.</p

## THE WAR.

## DEPARTURE OF OFFICERS AND TROOPS FOR TURKEY.

The *Tonning*, which sailed on the 4th, took out Brigadier-General Sir Colin Campbell, Brigadier-General Pennelather, Brigadier-General Eyre, Major Sterling, Captain Shadwell, Captain Thackwell, Captain Harding, Major Hope. Lieutenant Graham: Captain Walh, Aide-de-Camp to Lord de Ros; Captain Woodford, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General; Captain Blane, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General; an officer and detachment of the 19th Regiment; and Lieutenant Pearce.

The *City of London*, which sailed on the 6th, has on board Major-General Sir De L. Evans, Captain Gubina, Captain Boyle, Captain Allix, Captain Clifton, with his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge's establishment. Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, Assistant Adjutant-General and Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert, Assistant Quartermaster-General. A company of Sappers from Woolwich were also to embark with this ship, and another from Gibraltar, where she touches.

The *Emperor* starts to-day, and takes out Sir Richard England, Brigadier-General Cator, Royal Artillery; Lord De Ros, Deputy Quartermaster-General; Captain Neville, Captain Bradford, Captain Gaze, Captain Pack, Captain Kingscote, and Lord Raglan's horses and establishment, Lieutenant Calthorpe, Lieutenant Curzon, Surgeon Mapleton, and a detachment of the 18th Regiment.

Commissary-General Filder and Deputy Commissary-General Adams, accompanied by a numerous staff, left London on Tuesday, to join the army in the East. Deputy Commissary-General Cowan, and six Assistant Commissaries-General, have received orders to proceed to France, and make the necessary arrangements with the French authorities for the passage of our cavalry regiments through that country for embarkation at Marseilles, on the arrival of the transports at that port from England.

The 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers left Portsmouth garrison on Tuesday morning at half-past eight o'clock for Southampton, for embarkation for the East. They were accompanied by the bands of the regiments in garrison as far as the railway station, and were loudly cheered on the road, a large number of persons having assembled, although the hour at which they left barracks was so early as seven o'clock. The regiment left Southampton Docks in the *Trent* steamer. They were to remain some time in Southampton Water in order to take on board fourteen days' more provisions, when the *Trent* would proceed direct to Gallipoli. After landing the Fusiliers at Gallipoli, the *Trent* will go to Malta, and assist in conveying the troops stationed there to the Turkish territory.

The 7th Fusiliers left Manchester 900 strong, on Tuesday morning, by the London and North-Western Railway, in 44 carriages. The men appeared to be in capital spirits, and both divisions of the troops were accompanied in their march through the streets by some thousands of people, who cheered them loudly. They arrived at Southampton on Tuesday evening, and embarked on board the *Orinoco*.

The means of transport have still to be provided for twenty-two officers and seventy-two horses of the general staff.

The Rifle Brigade and the 4th Regiment embarked from Malta on the 31st ult. on board the *Golden Fleece*, for Gallipoli; the 9th, on board the *Georgiana*; and detachments of the 28th, 41st, 49th, and the 1st company of Sappers and Miners, on board the *Cape of Good Hope*, for the same destination.

Major-General Sir G. Brown arrived at Malta on the 28th, and sailed on the 31st for Gallipoli.

## ADMIRAL BERKELEY'S ADDRESS.

On Wednesday last, Rear-Admiral Berkeley was sent on board the *Cumberland*, 70, which was commissioned in January, 1851, and which has been ordered to the Baltic, in order to explain to the men the circumstances under which their services have been required. All hands having been piped on the quarter-deck, Admiral Berkeley addressed the men as follows:—

My Men,—I am sent down here by the Board of Admiralty to acquaint you that we are at war with Russia. Had there been no war, you would not have come home till June, as your time of service would not have expired till that period. The country now requires your services in another direction; and I feel assured that I am addressing a ship's company so well disciplined, that it gives me the utmost satisfaction in knowing you will be a valuable augmentation to the fleet now in the Baltic under the command of Sir Charles Napier, who has fifteen sail of the line with him, besides frigates and corvettes, the most of which are steamers. These, in conjunction with the gallant French, will, I trust, bring the war to a speedy issue. It is not likely that your services will be required longer than October next, because at that period the ice will prevent further operations; and, unless events should happen which no one can foresee, I trust that in October next we shall be enabled to pay you off, and that will only be a few months more than your time of service. If, however, the Russians should have the temerity to venture down amongst you, I well know the material we may rely on, and that you will give a pretty good account of the meeting. At present, should any of the ship's company want money, they may have it. If also there are medals or rewards to be distributed, that also will be immediately attended to. In this respect I will consult with your captain; and, in conclusion, although you may probably feel a little disappointment at what I have made known to you, yet, as British sailors and a gallant ship's company, you will act with loyalty, and I know you will do your duty as becomes you.

The address was well received by the men.

## SIR CHARLES NAPIER IN THE BALTIC.

On Monday week the British fleet, consisting of twenty-two vessels, carrying 1252 guns, and 12,500 men, arrived at Kiel, where it remained till Thursday. Crowds of people from Hamburg, Altona, and other towns in that neighbourhood, flocked to see the marvellous spectacle. Throughout the whole of Thursday the trains from Altona continued to bring fresh visitors from Berlin, Leipsic, and many other large places in the interior of Germany to Kiel, after the fleet had sailed; but the want of certain knowledge where it was to proceed kept many from engaging some kind of conveyance to follow it.

On Tuesday last the fleet was at anchor in Kioge Bay, a short distance from Copenhagen, where it was joined by the *Austerlitz*, 100 guns, from Brest. An electric despatch from Copenhagen of April 5, says:—

The fleet left Kioge Bay this morning. The news that the Russians have evacuated Aalund is officially confirmed.

The *Miranda* steamer, which returned last Sunday from a cruise of observation in the Baltic, brings intelligence that the Russian fleet is anchored at Revel, from which it cannot be freed by the breaking-up of the ice until the end of April.

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE WAR.

The Government purpose sending out all kinds of clothing and food, which can in any way conduce to the health of the troops. A large quantity of tea will be shipped, as the use of water alone in any way will be prohibited, owing to its deleterious character, without the operation of boiling. The French propose shipping a large quantity of wines, and it is supposed that some arrangement will be made by means of which our Government will be able to follow the example.

Those of the Greenwich Pensioners who are fit for service are now recalled to active duty. On Saturday, in pursuance of orders, the Greenwich pensioners of Liverpool, 42 in number, assembled at the Naval Rendezvous, Redcross-street, for inspection by Commander Beyis, R.N., who informed them that such of them as were found fit for service should be drafted on board ship. Upon inspection it was found that 22 were fit for active service.

Notice has been given that engineers at present working for private establishments, if they have had about two years' experience in the mercantile steam-vessels at sea, may be entered as acting assistant-engineers in the Royal Navy.

In addition to the *Pyrenees*, already despatched with horses of the Royal Artillery for the Mediterranean, Mr. Dunbar has five other transport-ships now ready at Deptford: two, the *Morayshire* and another new ship fitted for the conveyance of horses; and three, the *Dunbar*, the *Bombay*, and the *Canterbury*, fitted for the conveyance of infantry. It is supposed the sailing-vessels for infantry will be employed for conveying a portion of the six regiments of the line, which it is contemplated to send with a siege battery of artillery to the Baltic, to operate with the fleet under the command of Sir C. Napier.

On Sunday the prayer prescribed for time of war was offered in the various churches of the metropolis; and in most of the nonconformist places of worship supplications were made for the triumph of truth and justice, and a speedy return of peace.

The following arrangements have been taken with the Porte regarding the first expedition of 10,000 British troops. The Turkish Government is bound to furnish daily—10,000 lb. of bread (first quality); 10,000 lb. of meat, half beef, half mutton; 30,000 lb. of wood; 16,000 lb. of barley; and 15,000 lb. of straw. These articles will be paid for monthly by bills on the London Treasury. The troops are to be lodged in the spacious barracks situated in the Turkish quarter called Daout Pacha, and the military Governor of Constantinople has received orders to repair that establishment.

## TOWN AND TABLE-TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &amp;c.

WHATEVER the Royal Academy Exhibition may be like this year, all the pictures have been sent in—Tuesday being the last day on which pictures were received. From what we have seen, we can confidently state that our painters have not been idle; and that there is every promise of a very choice Exhibition.

A little bit of landscape gardening in London has just been temporarily laid open to public view. Who in West-end London has not walked from Piccadilly down Berkeley-street into Berkeley-square? Who does not remember the dead wall on the left enclosing the gardens of the Duke of Devonshire and the Marquis of Lansdowne? Well, a large portion of that wall has been pulled down to be rebuilt; and the view laid open has been a source of astonishment to the whole of May-fair. How few had a notion of what was behind that wall! Let us suggest something. Give a half-wall, with railing, and what a charming view might the public gain, at no loss whatever to the noble Duke or the noble Marquis. His Grace, we may add, commands a capital north view from Devonshire-house. He has not only his own garden, but the view is of such extent, for London, that both Lansdowne-house-garden and Berkeley-square seem to belong to his Grace.

Mr. John Bruce has resigned the office of treasurer to the Society of Antiquaries. Well, the society suffers a loss, but the public will gain by the resignation. The duties of the office seriously interfered with Mr. Bruce's literary labours. We have now a chance of obtaining the long-promised life of Prynne, the Puritan and antiquary, on which Mr. Bruce has been so long engaged, and which no one is so well competent to give us. Prynne's was a busy and important life, and the study of his career will throw light on the manners, and political and religious prejudices of a great period in our history.

John Wilson—better known as "The Professor," or "Christopher North"—died on Sunday last, near Edinburgh, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. He had long suffered from paralysis; but his mind, though his body was disabled and weak, was bright and vigorous to the last.

This highly original and influential poet and critic was born at Paisley, North Britain, in, it is said, May, 1789. His father was a rich cloth manufacturer in that town, who had risen to wealth by his own industry and honesty. His mother was a Miss Sym, sister to that Sym known to every reader of *Blackwood* under the assumed name of "Timothy Tickler."

After the usual domestic education, which, from the character of his father, may be reasonably supposed to have given him strong impressions of morality and perseverance, he was committed to the care of the Rev. George M'Latchie, and was soon distinguished among his schoolfellows. "Not to name the school or the masters of men illustrious for literature," says Johnson, "is a kind of historical fraud, by which honest fame is injuriously diminished."

From Mr. M'Latchie's care he was removed, while yet a boy, to the University of Glasgow, and placed there under the roof of Mr. George Jardine, Professor of Logic and Rhetoric in that University. Here he went through a full course of education in languages, philosophy, and *belles lettres*; and was remarked among his fellow-students as uncommonly original in his views, animated in his prosecution of them, and unrivalled in the powers he possessed of pressing them on the minds of those to whom he had occasion to address them. "He lived in my family," says Professor Jardine, "during the whole course of his studies at Glasgow; and the general superintendence of his education was committed to me; and it is but justice to him to declare, that during my long experience I never had a pupil who discovered more genius, more ardour, or more active and persevering diligence." If other proof were wanting of the truth of this, it may be found in the earliest of his writings, and in those testimonials which he collected when he became a candidate for the chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.

From Glasgow he removed to Oxford, and was entered amongst the non-founders of Magdalen College; where his tutors were—first, the Rev. Thomas Collins, and afterwards the Rev. Benjamin Cheesé. Here he acquired the friendship of Bishop Heber and Bishop Phillipotts; and was distinguished, both within and without the walls of his college, for the originality and vigour of his views, his skill in clothing them with proper words, his genius for poetry, and his love of all manly and honourable pursuits. The President of Magdalen still lives to remember the appearance made by the young non-founder in every classical examination, and the early promise which he gave of his after reputation.

The chief honour he obtained at Oxford was the Newdigate Prize for the best Poem on Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, of which Heber and others thought most favourably; but which the author himself viewed only as a college exercise, for he has not admitted it among his collected poems.

On leaving Oxford, his time was passed chiefly at Ellersay, on the banks of Windermere, where he bought a house, most beautifully situated; and in Edinburgh, where he was now and then to be seen sweeping the boards of the Parliament-house as a briefless barrister. He was not, however, idle, and became first known as a poet without the pale of the University by a poem to the memory of James Grahame, author of "The Sabbath." This he has admitted among his works, and it merits the partiality which he evinced for it. Sir Walter Scott, to whom he became known about this time, described him in 1812, to Joanna Baillie as "an excellent, warm-hearted, and enthusiastic young man," and adds, "something too much, perhaps, of the latter quality, places him among the list of originals."

His reputation was importantly increased, in the spring of 1812, by his poem, called "The Isle of Palms," a poem in four cantos, something in the style of Southey; and again, in the spring of 1816, by a drama, in three acts, called "The City of the Plague," descriptive of the great Plague of London, in 1665. "The Isle of Palms" passed unnoticed by the two great leaders of taste—the critics of the "Quarterly" and "Edinburgh." "The City of the Plague" was equally neglected by Gifford, but Jeffrey welcomed it as the work of a true poet.

While at Ellersay, he married Miss Ferriar, sister to the authoress of "Marriage" and "Inheritance," by whom he has left two sons and three daughters. He survived his wife, and lamented her loss with that fervent sorrow which all who knew the man, or knew her, might be sure he would feel. One of his daughters is married to Professor Aytoun—himself a true poet.

In the year 1820 he became a candidate for the chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Dr. Thomas Brown. The chair was in the gift of the Town Council, and there was a strong opposition to him, partly on the score of politics—certain humorous political pieces having much exacerbated the Whigs of the North against him. There was, however, no resisting his claims. His printed testimonials are such as any man might be proud to receive. "In the general range of literature," says Sir Walter Scott, "there are few topics which you have not considered; and I conceive that it would only require the direction of your powerful and original mind to any one particular study, in order to render yourself perfectly master of it." Wordsworth is still more to the point: "If the choice is to depend upon pre-eminence of natural powers of mind, cultivated by excellent education, and habitually directed to the study of ethics, in the most comprehensive sense of the word; upon such powers, and great energy of character, with correspondent industry, I have no hesitation in saying that the electors, the University, and Scotland in general, must be fortunate in no common degree, if, among the competitors, there be found one more eligible than yourself."

A few years before he obtained the University chair, which he retained to his death, he became acquainted with Mr. Lockhart, a younger man than himself, just fresh from Oxford, and anxious for distinction, both at the bar and in literature. They were soon allies, for they had congenial tastes, and the same High Tory range of politics. Edinburgh was then governed in politics and literature by Jeffrey and the *Edinburgh Review*. *Blackwood's Magazine* had been newly started, to spread other opinions, and find employment for the pens of a few younger satirists. To this magazine Wilson devoted much of his leisure time; Lockhart did the same; and now that Wilson is no more, Mr. Lockhart is the last of that little band that gave life and early reputation to *Blackwood*. They are all gone: Blackwood himself, Galt, Allan Cunningham, Hogg, Delta, Sym, and now Wilson.

Though it is not for a moment to be doubted that John Wilson is a poet, yet his claims to a hereafter will mainly rest on his prose contri-

butions to *Blackwood*. His "Noctes Ambrosianæ" abound in humour, in passages of fine poetry in prose, pieces of subtle criticism, and bursts of eccentric, but heart-moving merriment. We fear, however, that they are, at times, too local, too personal, and too temporary, in their allusions, to be enjoyed by those who are not well up in the private history of Edinburgh, and in matters now little remembered. Not so his other contributions—since collected by himself, and called "The Recreations of Christopher North." Here he is indeed a warbler of poetic prose, original both in thought and style, hurrying his reader on a breathless haste of delight, and then allowing him to recover himself, by the matter he affords him for his amusement and instruction. What word-painting is to be seen in this small portrait of Scott:—

The mighty Minstrel recited old ballads with a warlike march of sound that made one's heart leap; while his usually sweet smile was drawn in, and disappeared among the glooms that sternly gathered about his lowering brows, and gave his whole aspect a most heroic character. Rude verses that, from ordinary lips, would have been almost meaningless, from his came inspired with passion. Sir Philip Sidney, who said that "Chevy Chase" roused him like the sound of a trumpet, had he heard Sir Walter Scott recite it, would have gone distracted. Yet the "best judges" said he murdered his own poetry: we say, about as much as Homer.

Mr. Lockhart should transfer this master miniature to his master biography of his illustrious father-in-law.

As a poet he will descend to posterity, chiefly, we suspect, through his smaller pieces—such as his "Edith and Nora," and his "Address to a Wild Deer;" in the former there is much pastoral beauty and Doric delicacy; in the latter, an elasticity of language, and swing and vigour of verification that mark it out for a long popularity. In his larger pieces, it will be found, we fear, that almost the only passions with which his poetry is conversant are the gentler sympathies of our nature, tender compassion, confiding affection, and guiltless sorrow. He has little invention—he would not appear, indeed, to have cared much about a story. He can stir emotions by scenes and situations. The same observations will apply to his prose writings—such as his "Trials of Margaret Lindsay;" in which there is a slender thread of incident, but situations that command and merit attention, with pathos and landscape nature, each of a very high kind.

In person he was tall and well made, barely six feet; strong, active; with very handsome features, and a profusion of half-yellow, half-sandy hair. Hogg described him in his famous "Chaldee MS." as a man "with hair like eagle's feathers, and nails like bird's claws;" and Wilson himself enjoyed and admitted the truth of the portraiture. His eyes were fine, and his copiousness of imagery and of language, with his expression, were extremely fascinating. He entranced the listener. There is a good portrait of him by Sir John Watson Gordon, and a poetic bust of him, in marble, by the late Mr. Fillans.

There is current, among authors, a capital story of the Professor and Charles Lamb: and one, moreover, that is entirely spolied by the late Mr. Justice Talfourd, in a note to the letters of that delightful Essayist. Wilson entertained a hearty admiration for Elia, and when last in London (for his London visits were few and far between) he called on Lamb, and took a quiet stroll with the Essayist about Edmonton and Enfield. Lamb's liking for London porter in the middle of the day deserves to be proverbial. He seldom went out for a stroll but what he indulged in a pint of his mid-day beverage. He had long endeavoured to quiet this desire in his walk with Wilson, remembering that his companion was a public Professor of Moral Philosophy, and therefore, it was to be supposed, not particularly anxious to be seen walking with one who entered a public-house with the familiar air of an old frequenter. Thirst and custom, however, got the better of prudence, and Lamb at length asked Wilson to walk on, and he would soon overtake him. Now Wilson knew the failing of his friend, consented, and let Lamb get round the corner. As soon as Lamb was in seeming safety, Wilson ran after him, saw him enter a public-house, hurry to the tap, and call for "a pint of porter" as fast as his stammering manner would allow him. "Make it a pot," said Wilson, throwing down a shilling, and eyeing Lamb with a look of unutterable good feeling. Lamb clasped the Professor's hand with an intensity of warmth, and the pot was enjoyed as never pot of porter was perhaps enjoyed before. Lamb thought well of the Scotch from that moment.

(A Portrait of Professor Wilson is engraved in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, No. 119.)

## THE NEW COMET.

MR. HIND has published an ephemeris indicating the approximate position of the Comet in the heavens. The elements are adapted to eight o'clock, Greenwich time, which is about the most favourable hour for observation:—

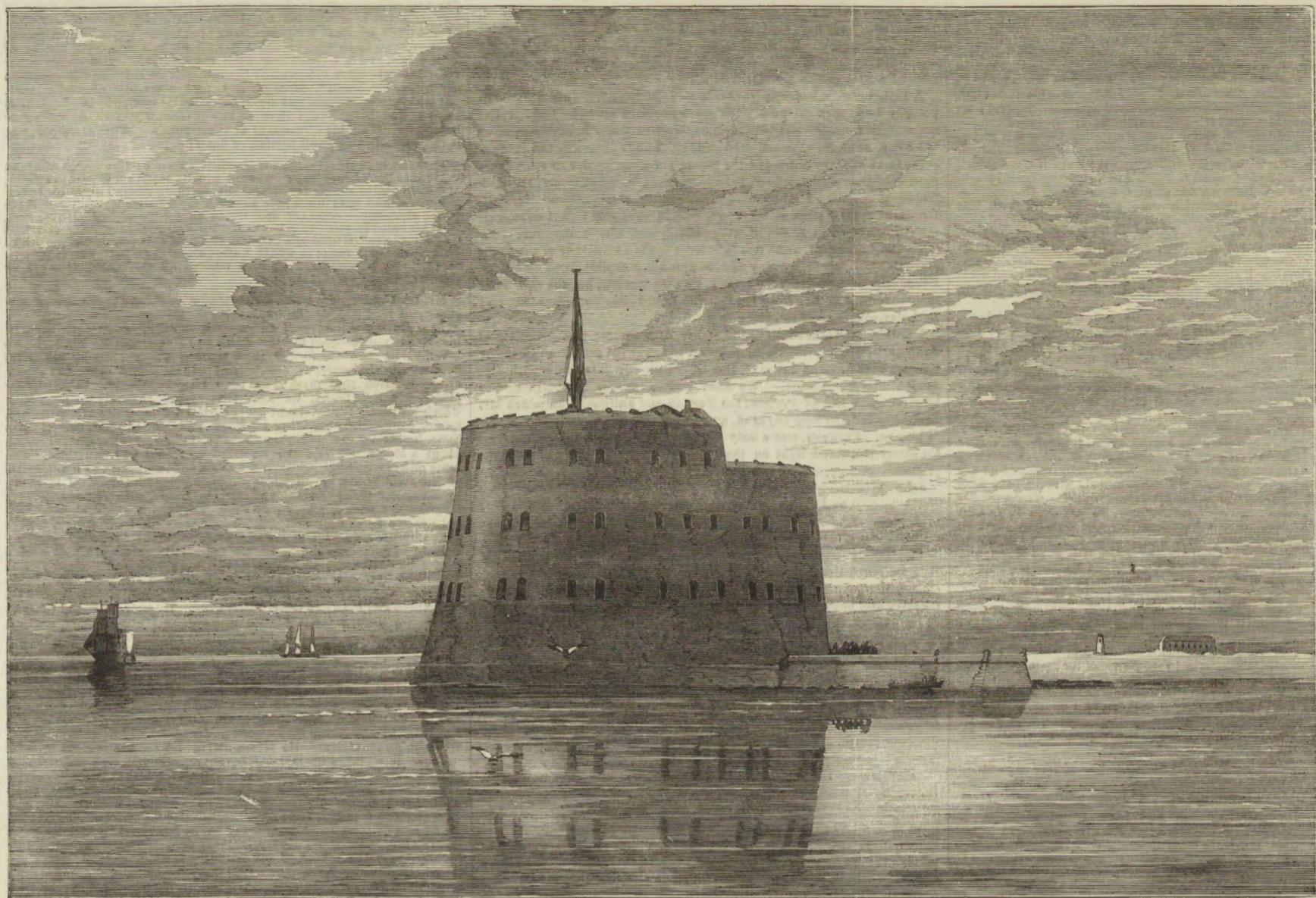
	Right Ascension.	North Declination.
Saturday, April 8.	.. 3 14	12 28
Sunday	.. 3 23	11 31 Sets at 9 14 p.m.



THE COMET AS IT APPEARED ON SATURDAY EVENING LAST.

This evening, at eight o'clock, it will appear in the vertical of the Pleiades, 13 degrees below them; and on the 18th its position will be 10 degrees below the bright star Aldebaran, in the Hyades, in nearly the same vertical. The Comet was at its least distance from the sun on the 24th of March. Mr. Hind states that the nucleus on Sunday evening was rather more than 5000 miles in diameter, and the extent of the tail 6,000,000 miles. At his best views Mr. Hind was certain of the existence of a luminous jet, thrown out from the star

C R O N S T A D T.



FORT ALEXANDER.—150 GUNS.

## THE TOWN AND FORTRESS OF CRONSTADT.

CRONSTADT, the "Malta of the Baltic," as the Russians style it, is a town, fortress, and port in the Government of St. Petersburg, from which city it is thirty-one miles distant. It is built at the south-east extremity of Kothnoi-Ostrof, an island in that part of the Gulf of Finland called the Bay of Cronstadt about sixteen miles from the mouth of the Neva. This island, a bed of chalk, formerly called Rétouzari, or Rat Island, by the Finlanders, is seven miles in length, and about one mile in breadth. At the entrance of the harbour, on an island opposite the citadel, lies the castle or fortress of Cronschlott, built by Peter the Great. This fortress and the mole bristle with guns, and the harbour itself is approachable only by one channel, which is well defended. A late visitor says that 600 heavy

guns can be brought to bear on a vessel lying at the mole. The passage between Cronschlott and Cronstadt is 2000 paces in width, and has ample depth for the largest vessels. Besides its importance as the great naval station of the Russian fleet, Cronstadt is the harbour of St. Petersburg. All vessels proceeding to that port are searched here, and their cargoes sealed; and such as are too large for the shallow waters of the Upper Neva unload their cargoes at Cronstadt, and transport them in smaller craft. The channel is marked by stakes the whole way, and vessels built at Petersburg are placed on a "samel," or kind of raft, by which their draught of water is lessened one-half, and then floated down the Neva, and over its bar, on which there is often only seven feet water. There are two navigable approaches to the Neva: the northern is by nature difficult, on account of the sand-banks, and is said to have been made inaccessible lately by sinking vessels filled with stones in the channel; the southern arm, though

nearly seven versts (about 4½ miles) broad, has an exceedingly narrow channel, close to the island of Cronstadt, and this is enfiladed by the guns on the works.

Cronstadt, which is built in the form of an irregular triangle, is strongly fortified on all sides. It has three harbours, lying to the south of the town. The outer, or military harbour, which is entirely surrounded by a massive and strongly-fortified mole, is a rectangle, stretching out into the sea, and is capable of containing, besides smaller vessels, about thirty-five ships of the line. It is now, however, so shallow at low water, that many of the ships are obliged to anchor in the middle harbour, which is properly intended for the fitting-out and repairing of vessels. It contains the slips, a powder magazine, a manufactory of pitch, tar, &c. The third, west, or innermost harbour, which has space for 600 merchant vessels, and runs parallel with the middle harbour, admits only merchantmen, for which there is besides an



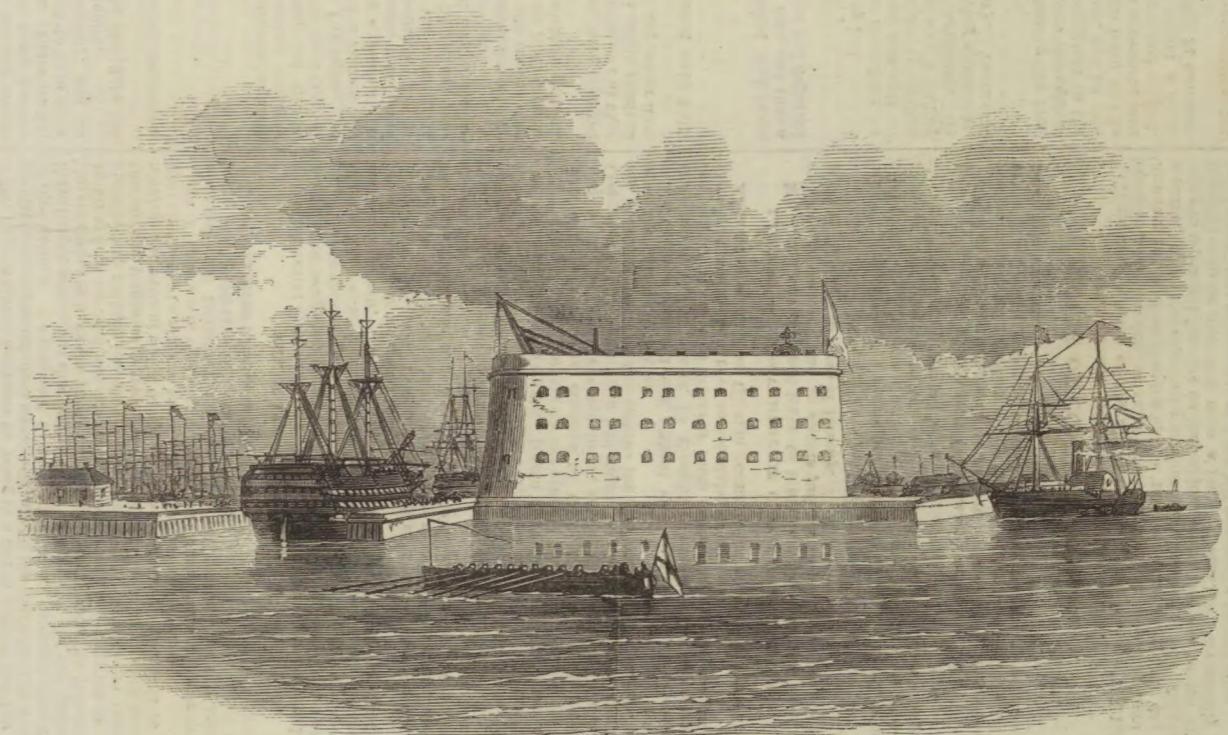
FORT PETER THE GREAT.—85 GUNS.



PANORAMIC VIEW OF CRONSTADT, FROM RISBANK.



FORT CRONSTADT.



FORT PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF.—48 GUNS.

excellent roadstead, immediately outside of the port, which is defended also by the citadel, constructed on a rock in the middle of the sea of Cronstadt. All these harbours are well secured; but, in consequence of the farness of the sea water, no vessel can be preserved in them above twenty years. They are besides detained a great part of the year by the ice in the bay of Cronstadt, which usually prevents vessels from entering after the end of November, or leaving before the end of April, or sometimes even later. For nearly six months the bay of Cronstadt is as lifeless as a desert; the whole surface is then frozen to one solid level, broken only by three roads—one to St. Petersburg, one to Oranzenbaum, and a third to Sestrelsk. In 1849 the summer season commenced on the 15th May, and ended on the 26th November.

Vessels are repaired and built in the large canal of Peter the Great, which runs directly into the town between the middle and merchants' harbour. It is 2160 feet long, 56 wide, and 26 deep; the side abutments, &c., are of solid masonry, and it is filled with water by means of sluices, which is again pumped out by steam-engines. It was commenced in 1721, and finished by Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the Great. Near it are the various docks, in which ten ships can be repaired at once; the foundry, which supplies annually 1200 tons of bombs, balls, &c.; the Admiralty rope-walk, tar-works, and excellent wet docks. By the new Catherine canal, commenced in 1782, which communicates with the merchants' port, and is 1880 fathoms long, Government vessels are enabled to take their stores, munition, &c., directly from the storehouses. The town, which, with its garrison, contains about 10,000 inhabitants, is very regularly built, and contains many fine, straight, and well-paved streets, and several public squares. The houses, however, with the exception of those belonging to the Government, are chiefly of one story, and built of wood. The city has three gates, and is divided into two parts—the Commandant and Admiralty quarters, which are subdivided into four districts. Between the Peter's and Catherine canals is the old Italian palace, built by Prince Menschikoff, who took this island from the Swedes in 1703. It is at present occupied by the school for pilots, a very excellent institution, which contains 400 boys, from ten to seventeen years of age, all sons of naval officers. Here they are carefully instructed during the winter months in the scientific branches of their profession; and, during the summer, all the older ones are at sea, either in men of war or merchant vessels, learning to become pilots for the Baltic and Gulf of Finland.

Among the chief buildings are the Admiralty, Exchange, Custom-house, barracks, a Protestant gymnasium, various schools, an invalid asylum for sixty females, the nobility's club, and the house of Peter the Great, where he resided for some time; but, with the exception of a few old oaks, which he is said to have planted with his own hand, there are no remains of the former garden. The permanent population of Cronstadt, exclusive of the garrison, the pupils of the naval school, workmen, and sailors, is not considerable; during the summer it amounts to upwards of 40,000 individuals, of various nations; of these, next to the Russians, the English are most numerous. The inhabitants derive their chief support from the fleet, trade, and shipping. The town presents an appearance of great activity and bustle during the summer, but in winter all is dead and stagnant. The town and port were laid out, and the buildings far advanced, by Peter the Great, who founded Cronstadt in 1710; but it did not receive its present name (the City of the Crown) till 1721. At the northern extremity of the island is Fort Alexander, built of massive blocks of Finland granite, intended to mount 150 guns, but having only 120. In the centre is a court-yard, and in it is a barracks, not bomb-proof, capable of containing 750 men. The guns are chiefly of the largest size, but the fort is said to labour under the same disadvantage as those of Sebastopol—the back part of the casemates being solid, and the loopholes very small, there is no proper passage for the smoke, so that the men serving the guns would be half smothered after a few rounds had been fired.

The next fort on the left from Alexander is Fort Peter, which mounts 85 guns, and one side of which commands the anchorage and passage to St. Petersburg. Fort Menschikoff, built in 1851, mounts 48 guns—all facing the channel. Opposite Alexander, on the right bank of the channel, stands Fort Riesband, which, when completed, was to mount 250 guns.

Let us accounts from St. Petersburg affirm that the strand batteries, which command the channel leading up to the harbour, have been doubled, and that, before Cronstadt can be attacked, these batteries, which contain 800 guns of the largest calibre, must be destroyed. They also say that there are three artillery parks in reserve.

By a ukase of the 11th of March, addressed to the Russian Senate, General Dehn, of the Engineers, has been named Military Governor of Cronstadt, *ad interim*, and to supply the place of Vice-Admiral Lüthe, the actual Commandant. General Dehn enjoys all the prerogatives of a General commanding an independent corps, and has the garrison of Cronstadt, and all the troops there placed, under his orders.

Letters from Bromberg announce a somewhat novel mode of establishing submarine mines for the special and complete destruction of all British ships approaching Cronstadt. Russian engineers say have sunk vast blocks of granite into the channel, in which blocks, chambers filled with powder have been excavated, and are to be fired by voltaic batteries at the critical moment. A pleasant story!

#### DATES OF THE CHIEF EVENTS IN THE LAST WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

1828.  
May 7, 8. Russians cross the Pruth.  
" Besiege Ibrail.  
June 8. Cross the Danube at Isaktschi: Operations between it and Trajan's Wall.  
" 16. Capitulation of Ibrail.  
" 30. Capture of all other places up to Trajan's Wall.  
July 16. Operations against Varna and Schumla.  
" 27. Arrive before Schumla.  
" 16. Invest Varna.  
Aug. 3. Russians met with reinforcements.—Siege began.  
Oct. 10. Capitulation.  
July 21. Invest Silistria.  
Oct. 25. Abandon the siege.  
Sept. 27. Battle at Kalafat to the disadvantage of the Russians; but the place carried by a night surprise.

1829.  
April 15. Diebitsch leaves Jassy for the army.  
" Sisiboli taken by sea without resistance.  
May 8, 9. The Danube crossed at Hirsova and Silistria.  
" Silistria re-invested.  
" [Varna being in the possession of the Russians, made this more easy to effect.]  
June 12. Battle of Kulnotscha—between Schumla and Paravadi.  
" 26. Capitulation of Silistria.  
July 18. Schumla passed, and head-quarters on road to Adrianople.  
Aug. 19. Adrianople reached.  
Sept. 7. Mediah on the Black Sea occupied by advance along the coast from Bourgas and Sisiboli.  
" 8. Enos on the Mediterranean (south of Adrianople) occupied.  
Aug. 26. Treaty of Adrianople signed.

THE ADMIRALTY HOAXED.—Last week a large Dutch steamer, bound for Rotterdam, passed through the Caledonian Canal. The rumour readily ran through the town that she was a Russian steamer acting as a spy; and some enthusiastic patriot wrote up to the Admiralty, stating in positive terms that a Russian steamer was actually in our harbour. The simple lieges of Inverness knew nothing of this until Tuesday morning, when a splendid Government steamer (the *Brissa*, six guns) anchored in Kessock Roads, and immediately instituted inquiries into the truth of the report. It appears that, so soon as the intelligence was received at the Admiralty, orders were sent to the *Brissa* to proceed at once to Inverness.

THE GOSSIP OF CONSTANTINOPLE.—We generally have a battle at Kalafat or a sortie from Sebastopol every Wednesday, which is sufficiently explained by the fact that Wednesday is the principal day at the Bourse. The battle at Kalafat is usually supposed to be brought across the country by a Tatar, who, covered with dust and sinking from fatigue, rides up to the Porte; while the operations in the Black Sea have been communicated by the master of a merchantman, who strangely enough has just again weighed anchor from the Bosphorus. The captain of one vessel here has seen so many Russian fleets as to have incurred the reprimands of his superiors, since which time his range of vision has been limited.—*Letter from Constantinople.*

CURIOS. COPYRIGHT.—The Imperial Court of Austria gave a judgment last week of considerable interest to print-sellers and sculptors. It was to the effect that statues and statuettes cannot be copied by photographic means, without the consent of the authors and proprietors. Several tradesmen, who had taken on themselves to reproduce statues in this way, were condemned to pay damages to the different plaintiffs, varying from 100f. to 500f.

#### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

###### PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS.

The presentation by the House of its Address in reply to her Majesty's Message occasioned their Lordships' meeting at two o'clock, three hours before their usual time.

A few Peers were sitting, hearing appeals, during the earlier part of the morning—Lords Harrowby and Monteagle, Brougham, and St. Leonards. Of these the Earl of Harrowby and Lord Monteagle found time to divest themselves of the costume in which they had been discharging their judicial functions, and they returned in time to assist at the ceremonial. Lord Brougham, despairing of such ceremony in the dressing of those well-known garments to which comic art has given a historical value, and Lord St. Leonards, who in the order of juniority adopted on the occasions, would have enjoyed a painful pre-eminence, prudently kept their seats, and let the more active and more ancient peers come and go in singularly tasteful uniforms, and with very innocuous swords, on the warlike mission which formed the solemn business of the day.

Shortly after two o'clock, Lords Derby and Malmesbury appeared; and the House began to fill with regiments, mostly attributable to the recent Act for the Enrolment of the Militia. A few old noblemen, objecting to such subterfuges, stood forth in court dress, and three Bishops lent the variety of lawn. All who proposed to go having arrived, the Usher of the Black Rod called over their names. There were present—the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Montrose, the Marquises of Cholmondeley and Bath, the Earls Derby, Eglington, Denebigh, Delawarr, Carnarvon, Malmesbury, Desart, Erne, Lanesborough, Lucas, Powis, Shefield, Howe, Harrowby, Cawdor, Strathmore, Dognhamore, and Clare; the Bishops of London, Oxford, and Llandaff; the Barons Colville of Culross, Dynesvor, Clarina, Redesdale, Colchester, Monteagle, Campbell, and Dufferin. These gentlemen, with the Lord Chancellor, then set off in their carriages, in procession, to the Palace.

###### THE QUEEN'S REPLY.

At five o'clock their Lordships re-assembled at the House.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then rose and said: My Lords, I have to acquaint your Lordships that the House has waited this day on her Majesty, with the Address which you voted on Friday last. Her Majesty has been pleased to return to it the following most gracious answer:—

I thank your Lordships for your loyal and dutiful address. It is highly gratifying to me to receive the assurance of your co-operation in giving effect to measures which I consider necessary for the honour of my Crown and the welfare of my people.

###### CHURCH BUILDING ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

The Earl of HARROWBY, in moving the second reading of the Church Building Act Amendment Bill, described the objects of the bill, and showed its application to the city of London. There were in the City churches with no population attending them; whilst, in other parts of the metropolis, there was population without churches—evils which were exceedingly injurious to the cause of religion. The bill would remove churches from places where they were not wanted, and place them where they were wanted. It had been objected that it was proposed to interfere with consecrated buildings. He admitted that this objection was entitled to the highest respect; but he contended that, where the purpose in view was the real interest of religion, all minor considerations must give way. The power which he proposed to take in respect to churches already existed in respect to grave-yards; and he observed that its operation would not be confined to London, but would extend to old cathedral towns, such as Norwich, Chester, York, and others, which were similarly circumstanced. Without some such measure, he despaired of the Church being enabled to meet the necessities of the people; but, in order that the whole subject might be fully considered, he intended, after the second reading, to propose that the bill be referred to a select committee.

The Earl of Powis objected to the bill, on the ground that it proceeded to pull down churches without making provision for free seats for the population turned out of them, and without affording any security that when benefices were united under it, the population would not be much too large for the care of a single minister.

The Bishop of LONDON gave his support to the bill. Its object was, under certain safeguards and with certain securities, to provide for the taking down of churches where they were not wanted and rebuilding them where they were wanted. It would effectually meet the case of the city of London, and provide for the wants of districts outside its walls; and he showed that owing to existing circumstances such a measure was necessary. If by taking down churches where they were not wanted, and covering over cemeteries which were not used, a sum of half a million could be raised for the purpose of church building where churches were wanted, he did not think any Christian could put his hand on his heart and say a wrong thing had been done. There would, however, be no sweeping removal of churches, as seemed to have been anticipated, for every case would be dealt with separately, and no church would be removed until after the most careful inquiry.

Lord ST. LEONARDS suggested that the bill should designate the churches which it was intended to pull down.

The bill was read the second time, and referred to a select committee.

###### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

###### PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS.

The Speaker took the chair at half-past two o'clock.

There were about 150 members present, who were distributed equally on both sides of the House. Amongst those present on the Treasury bench were Lord J. Russell, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Strutt, and Mr. F. Peel—all of whom wore the Ministerial uniform. On the front Opposition benches were Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Walpole, and Sir J. Pakington, also clad in Ministerial uniform—a privilege usually accorded to ex-members of the Cabinet. The House presented an unusually gay appearance in consequence of the number of uniforms—deputy-lieutenants, militia, and yeomanry enlivening the usually sombre aspect of the benches.

The SPEAKER having called upon Lord J. Russell, the noble Lord proceeded to the bar of the House, and announced that he had the command of her Majesty to state that she would be graciously pleased to receive the Address of the House of Commons at three o'clock.

A great deal of amusement was created by the circumstance of the Speaker proceeding at the head of the House without the mace. The right hon. gentleman's attention was called to the fact by Lord Charles Russell, the Serjeant-at-Arms, who shouldered the unwieldy ornament amid much laughter.

Westminster-hall, and all the approaches to the House, were crowded with persons anxious to get a glimpse of the different members as they passed; among whom the hon. and gallant Member for Lincoln received as large a share of public notice as fell to the lot of any other hon. gentleman or noble lord.

On the motion of Lord J. RUSSELL, the House adjourned until half-past five.

###### THE BLACK SEA FLEET.

The House having re-assembled at the above hour, Sir J. GRAHAM, in answer to Captain Scobell, stated that large quantities of coal had been sent out for the Black Sea fleet, and that a despatch had been that day received, stating that the fleet had departed for Varna.

###### THE BRIBERY BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on the Bribery Bill, Mr. V. SMITH moved that it be referred to a select committee, by which only would justice be done to the various proposed measures on the subject. He observed that, though unusual animosity against bribery had been lately manifested in that House, there was a feeling out of doors that such vehemence savoured a little of hypocrisy. He condemned the severity of the contemplated disqualifying enactment, and said that it rested with candidates to prevent bribery. There was no public opinion to support this penal measure.

Mr. DEEDESS supported the amendment.

Lord J. RUSSELL was disappointed at the course taken by his hon. friend Mr. V. Smith. This reference to a select committee was equivalent to postponing the bill to another session. All objections to the measure might be taken in the committee of the House, and he proposed to take Sir F. Kelly's bill second in order to his own, and to postpone the controversial clauses in the latter until an agreement had been come to as to a definition of the offences to be legislated against. He also observed that it would be impossible for him to attend a select committee, and he urged that there was no real difficulty in considering the measures he proposed.

Mr. WALPOLE felt the advantage of going to a select committee, but did not consider it advisable to press the amendment after what had fallen from Lord J. Russell, who had proposed to proceed in the fairest possible manner.

Col. SISTHORP was opposed to the whole measure.

Mr. NAPIER thought that the sooner the subject was got rid of the

better; and, though he was aware of the desirability of a select committee, would not oppose the motion of Government.

Lord HOTHAM supported the amendment, and observed that the Prime Minister, in disposing of his patronage, would violate the proposed law every day.

The House then divided, and the numbers were—For the original motion, 146; for the amendment, 76: Majority for Government, 70.

The House then went into committee, and the discussion occupied the greater part of the sitting.

The Ministers' Money (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and passed.

###### HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

###### BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

The Bill of Exchange Bill was read a second time, on the motion of Lord Brougham, and ordered to be referred to the Select Committee on the Common Law Procedure Bill.

###### CHIMNEY-SWEEPERS BILL.

The Chimney-sweepers Bill was ordered to be referred to a select committee, on the motion of Lord Shaftesbury.

###### HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

###### THE DAMAGED HAY.

Mr. OSBORNE, in reply to Mr. Sadler, stated that it appeared that no ground existed for charging Messrs. Sturgeon and Sons with deliberate fraud; and that the truss of hay in which the carcass of a lamb was found was not one of the trusses sent in by Messrs. Sturgeon.

###### DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.

Mr. FAGAN moved for leave to bring in a bill to make provision for the better government of the University of Dublin; for the establishment of a second college therein, with co-ordinate authority and equivalent income with Trinity College, to be called the Queen's College; and for the extension to students of all religious denominations of the honours, degrees, emoluments, and offices in the said Queen's College. He complained of the narrow sphere within which the rich endowments of Trinity College were distributed; and proposed that there should be two colleges, with separate provosts, under a council of twenty-four members elected by both colleges, the second college having its fair share of the large property now belonging to Trinity College.

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON offered his unqualified and decided opposition to the motion. He showed the relaxations which had been made of the original restrictions—the number of honours and offices in the college open to Roman Catholics, the aggregate emoluments amounting to £6900 a year—enumerated some of the eminent persons who had been educated at Trinity College, and then proceeded to argue that the Act of Settlement—upon which Mr. Fagan relied as affording authority for his scheme—contained enactments directly repugnant to it.

Mr. HAYWOOD admitted that many beneficial modifications had been made in the college; but, although he wished its constitution to remain as it was, he thought more modifications of its restrictions were desirable.

Sir J. YOUNG characterised this motion as one of those attempts now made to change established institutions in Ireland, and he looked at an attack upon a Protestant institution as he would at an attack upon Maynooth College.

Mr. HUME supported the motion, which was not intended to interfere with the educational purposes of Trinity College, but to devise a better mode of expending its money for those purposes.

Mr. WHITESIDE said, the object of this bill was to take away from the University of Dublin funds given for one purpose, and to apply them to another; and this he called confiscation.

Mr. J. FITZGERALD denied that the bill proposed confiscation. The measure did not interfere with the education of Trinity College, but would work out this object—that, while a place of education was still preserved for Protestant clergymen, incentives to exertion should be opened to Roman Catholics.

Mr. NAPIER opposed the motion, because its object and scope were incompatible with the foundation and continuance of the University of Dublin, which had gone to the utmost length of liberality consistent with the primary and lawful object of the institution.

Mr. I. BUTT insisted that if the present system were broken up, the end would be disappointment, for the new college would not be accepted by the Roman Catholic hierarchy or the Roman Catholic people of Ireland.

Mr. GEORGE having spoken shortly against the motion, and Mr. P. O'BRIEN in its favour, Mr. Fagan declining to divide the House, the motion was negatived.

###### PROTECTION OF WOMEN.

Mr. BOYER moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law regarding actions for criminal conversation and the protection to women in such actions. He proposed by this bill, that no damages should be hereafter awarded, but that in the event of a verdict for the plaintiff, the court should have the power of imposing a fine upon the defendant. In all actions for crim. con. the wife was unheard, and a verdict for her husband was nothing less than destruction to her. In order to remedy this state of things he proposed that no action should be brought against a defendant without notice being given to the woman, and that at the trial she should be allowed to appear by counsel and witnesses.

the House was to further extend the operations of that act to towns which, like Cheltenham, had no municipal government; to other places which, like the metropolitan boroughs, were governed neither by municipal corporations, nor by improvement acts, and also to parishes uniting for a common purpose among themselves. The existing act did not extend to Scotland or Ireland; but the present bill, at the desire of many persons, he proposed should extend to both countries. Under the existing Libraries Act, Town-councils were not allowed to levy for the maintenance of those libraries a rate exceeding one half-penny in the pound. But by this bill, upon the representation of a great number of places, he proposed to extend that power, and enable them to levy a rate to the amount of one penny in the pound. By the existing act, too, there was no power given to purchase books and works of art; the present bill would provide for that omission, and confer the necessary powers.

Mr. FITZROY opposed the bill on the part of Government. Several other men were also opposed it; and it was ultimately thrown out by a majority of 3.

The Uniform Rate of Assessment Bill was withdrawn after a short discussion.

The County Court Extension Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

A discussion on the second reading of the Property Disposal Bill, which lasted to a quarter to six, was adjourned to next day, in accordance with the rules of the House.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

##### THE RUSSIAN FLEET IN THE BLACK SEA.

The Earl of MALMESBURY called the attention of Lord Clarendon to the various reports which have appeared in the public papers, to the effect that several Russian ships had recently left Sebastopol in considerable force, some with and some without troops; that these ships of war had landed about 4000 troops near the mouth of the Danube, and that a similar operation was performed on the Circassian coast. He asked the noble Earl whether he had received any confirmation of those reports, and he also asked whether he had any objection to state why the English and French fleets had continued to lie inactive in Beicos Bay; and how it happened that the Russian ships had been enabled to act in the Euxine, while the English ships thought it dangerous to do so?

The Earl of CLARENDON could not agree with the noble Earl, that the English or French fleet had remained at all inactive since they approached the neighbourhood of the Black Sea. During the winter the Admirals of the combined fleets considered it better not to expose their ships to the dangers of the Black Sea and the wear and tear of the weather there, while the Russian ships were lying snug in their ports. Beicos Bay was considered by them the best place for the main body of the fleet to stop, while they, from time to time, sent out scouts into the Black Sea, to observe the movements of the enemy. In respect to the recent report of the arrival of Russian ships at Varna and Circassia, the Government had every reason to suppose that no such events had taken place. The first notice of such a circumstance having occurred was communicated by the master of a Bremen frigate. On Sir E. Lyons becoming acquainted with this report he immediately proceeded to Constantinople, to which place he was informed the frigate had gone. Having succeeded in seeing the master, he was informed by this person that the statement was untrue, for he had seen nothing whatever of the kind in the Black Sea. On the 22nd ult. a report was reconnoitred by an English ship of war, and the Russian fleet was observed lying inactive in the harbour. On the 24th the whole of the combined fleet sailed from Beicos Bay into the Black Sea, and the Earl (Lord C.) had that day seen letters from Admiral Dundas and Sir E. Lyons, who respectively reported that no such event as that related had taken place (Hear, hear).

The Earl of ELLENDOROUGH deprecated the system of passing such rigid criticisms upon the conduct of our naval and military chiefs, which was calculated to do much injury, by discouraging them in their performance of those important duties, for the proper discharge of which they were fully aware that they would be held responsible by the Parliament and the country.

The Earl of MALMESBURY said that his noble friend was certainly one of the best speakers, but the very worst listener, in that House (Laughter). If the noble Earl had been attending to what he (Lord M.) had said, he would have found that he was particularly cautious in making any criticism upon the conduct of our Admirals in the East.

##### SCOTTISH RIGHTS.

The Earl of EGLINTON presented a petition from the National Association of Scotland for the vindication of Scottish Rights, and moved an address to her Majesty, praying for an additional Secretary of State, for an increase in their representation, and for the restoration of Holyrood Palace.

The Earl of ABERDEEN objected to the motion, on the ground that Scotland had no grievances to complain of, to warrant such a proceeding.

The Duke of MONTROSE supported the motion.

Some discussion then took place, which resulted in the motion being withdrawn.—Adjourned.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Mr. HAYTER moved a new writ for the borough of Southampton, in the room of Sir A. Cockburn, who, since his election, has accepted the office of Recorder of Bristol.

##### TURKEY AND GREECE.

Mr. M. MILNES asked Lord J. Russell whether the Government were informed that diplomatic relations have ceased between the Ottoman Porte and the Government of Greece, in consequence of the refusal of the Government of Greece to accede to demands which they considered derogatory to an independent state?

Lord J. RUSSELL said that diplomatic relations were broken off between Turkey and Greece; and he thought that Turkey had good reason to feel angry with Greece, for the whole insurrection was a concoction of the Court of Greece, and not voluntary on the part of the subjects of the Porte. Her Majesty had given instructions as to the course to be pursued, and the Court of Greece must be held responsible for the consequences which might ensue.

In reply to a question from Mr. Bright, Lord J. Russell said that there was no convention between France, England, and Turkey as to the internal government of the latter country.

Mr. BURR asked the Solicitor-General whether the *bond fide* sale of a Russian vessel to a British subject, since the declaration of war, but within six weeks of that event, would be regarded by the British Government as a legitimate transaction?

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said that the license granted to Russian ships, at present in British ports, to clear out before a certain time would naturally extend itself to *bond fide* sales of Russian vessels under the circumstances stated.

##### HENRY STONOR.

Mr. MOORE moved that a Select Committee be appointed to take into consideration the case of the appointment of Henry Stonor to the office of a Judge in the Colony of Victoria, the said Henry Stonor having been reported by a Committee of this House to have been guilty of bribery at the election for the borough of Sligo in 1852. The hon. gentleman entered at great length into the circumstances of the Sligo election, and quoted largely from the evidence taken before the Committee, in order to establish his charge of bribery against Mr. Stonor, who had since been appointed to a pliue judgeship in Australia. The hon. gentleman conceded that Mr. Stonor had been appointed to his judgeship on account of his corrupt agency at the Sligo election.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that the charge conveyed in the motion was really one against the Duke of Newcastle; and, as the Government must share the responsibility, he would offer no objection whatever to the most ample inquiry. The appointment of Mr. Stonor was made in ignorance of his election practices.

Some discussion then took place, and the motion was agreed to after a division, in which there were 115 in favour of it, and 37 against it.

##### RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC.

Mr. CARDWELL moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better regulation of traffic upon railways and canals. The chief object of the measure was to secure uniformity in the arrangements of all the railways in the kingdom, so as to make them what public roads were—the Queen's highway. For this purpose the bill gave to railway companies powers which they did not now possess—of entering into combinations and agreements, with a view to enable them to work in harmony to this end.

After a discussion, in which Mr. McGregor, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Mangles, Mr. Lock, Mr. Malins, Mr. Hudson, Mr. B. Denison, and Mr. Waddington, took part, leave was given to bring in the bill.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Friday (last week), Lord CLARENDON moved the Address in reply to her Majesty's Message announcing the breaking out of hostilities with Russia, and, in doing so, justified the course which Ministers had taken throughout the whole of the negotiations. Lord DERRY endeavoured to show that the war had been caused by the conduct of the Earl of Aberdeen, which had encouraged the Emperor of Russia to carry out his aggressive policy. Lord ABERDEEN defended himself from the charge of having favoured Russian interests. As to the fact of his having enjoyed the good opinion of the Emperor of Russia, he was not ashamed of it; and he reminded the noble Earl that he (the Earl of Derby), on his accession to office, had been congratulated by Prince Schwarzenberg. The Earl of MALMESBURY, Lord Granville, Lord Brougham, Earl Grey, the Earl of Hardwicke, and the Marquis of Lansdowne having spoken on the question, the Address was unanimously agreed to.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the same evening, Lord J. RUSSELL moved the Address. The conduct of Government was attacked by Mr. Layard, Mr. Bright, the Marquis of Granby, and Mr. Disraeli; and defended by Lord Palmerston. The debate, which lasted from five o'clock till nearly one on Saturday morning, was brought to a close by Lord J. Russell.

#### METROPOLITAN NEWS.

##### RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, APRIL 6.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer, Highest Reading.	Mean Lowest Reading.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humid- ity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain Inches.
Mar. 31	30.349	63.1	32.8	48.7	+ 5.3	62	W. & S.W. 0.00
April 1	30.363	71.5	34.9	53.4	+ 9.8	53	S.W. 0.00
" 2	30.375	67.1	36.0	51.9	+ 8.2	69	VAR. 0.00
" 3	30.458	78.0	39.1	45.3	+ 4.1	70	VAR. 0.00
" 4	30.510	62.5	31.6	47.1	+ 3.1	67	VAR. 0.00
" 5	30.554	65.5	37.4	51.5	+ 7.3	63	W. 0.00
" 6	30.588	67.6	33.2	51.3	+ 6.9	64	S.W. 0.00

Note.—The sign + denotes above the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer has varied but little during the week, the highest reading being 30.51 inches on the morning of April 4th, and the lowest 30.17 inches on the afternoon of the 1st. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 30.353 inches.

The mean temperature of the week was 50.3°, being 6.4° above the average of the corresponding week during 1853.

The range of temperature during the week was 39.9°, being the difference between the highest reading on April 1, and the lowest on the 4th.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 23.1°. The greatest was 36.6° on April 1; and the lowest 18.9°, on the 3rd.

The weather, throughout the week, was very fine, and the sky almost free from cloud. The wind has been light and variable in direction, but mostly S.W. Rain has not fallen since March 20.

For the month of March, the mean reading of the barometer at the level of the sea was 30.355 inches. The highest temperature during the month was 65.2° on the 12th, and the lowest was 24.5° on the 4th. The range of temperature during the month, therefore, was 40.7°. The mean of all the highest temperatures by day was 55.5°, and, of all, the lowest by night was 34.8°. The mean daily range of temperature during the month, therefore, was 20.7°. The mean temperature of the month was 44.6°, being 3.1° above the average of thirty-eight Marches, and the hottest March since the year 1842, when the mean temperature was 44.6°. The mean temperature of evaporation was 41.3°. The mean temperature of the dew point was 37.2°. The mean degree of humidity was 78, complete saturation being represented by 100. The fall of rain during the month was 0.4 inch (four-tenths of an inch).

Lewisham, April 7, 1854.

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The births of 1948 children were registered in the week ending April 1; of these 1015 were boys and 933 were girls. In the nine corresponding weeks of the years 1845-53 the average number was 1148. The number of deaths registered within the same week was 1489, being 167 above the corrected average of the ten corresponding weeks of the ten preceding years.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.—This society celebrated its eightieth anniversary by a dinner on Wednesday evening, at the Freemasons' Tavern; Lord Dudley Stuart in the chair. The annual report shows that 165 persons who had met with accidents or attempted suicide during the past year, 153 were treated with success, and twelve only found beyond recovery. The total number of persons who had bathed in the Serpentine during the year had amounted to 223,250; twenty-one were rescued from drowning by the activity of the society's boatmen, and not one fatal accident had occurred. During the late frost fifty persons broke through the ice and were saved by the society. The number of lives saved by the society since its formation had been about 30,000. The medal of the society having been presented to Captain Henry Grierson, of the 15th Regiment; Mr. W. H. Jones, the Rev. H. G. Kinnear, Mr. W. Elleray, Mr. Wainwright, Captain W. N. Finley, and other gentlemen, who had saved the lives of persons from drowning during the past year, donations by accession of new benefactors, of which the hospital stands greatly in need, to maintain its highly useful objects.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.—A public meeting was held at the Court-house, Marybone-lane, on Monday evening, for the purpose of considering the new Reform Bill proposed by Lord John Russell, and to urge upon the Legislature the necessity of passing it without delay; Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., in the chair. The chairman, in opening the business, said he considered the measure one of great importance, from the number of cases that had recently occurred disgraceful to a representative Government; and, from interviews he had had with many parties, the general opinion appeared to be in its favour. He did not think they would ever have a fair and proper representation until the electors were protected by the ballot, but the question was whether they ought not to take what they could get. There was one valuable clause—the alteration in not making the suffrage dependent on the payment of taxes. Every step they progressed must be favourable, and he was surprised this bill had so lightly passed over by the public. Mr. Graham then moved the following resolution:—"That the bill introduced into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell, further to amend the representation of the people, is entitled to the cordial support of all parliamentary reformers, inasmuch as it greatly increases the number of voters, disfranchises nineteen nomination boroughs, and transfers their representation to more populous districts." The resolution was carried by a large majority. Sir Benjamin Hall, M.P., and Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P., addressed the meeting at some length in favour of the measure; and, a petition to Parliament having been agreed to, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.—A meeting of shareholders in the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China (adjourned from the 16th March), was held at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, to receive a report from the committee, detailing the result of their interview with the directors, to induce them to abandon the undertaking. It appeared that the board refused to entertain the views of the committee. It was urged by the committee that circumstances had changed most materially during the last two years, and that, in consequence, a large majority of the shareholders and allowees were now opposed to the scheme. In 1852, when the bank was first contemplated, there was general peace; in 1854, a European war and an insurrection in China; in 1852, Consols were at 100; in 1854, at 86; in 1852, taxes were repealed; in 1854, the Income-tax was doubled; in 1852, wheat was at 40s.; in 1854, at 80s.; in 1852, discounts at 2½ per cent.; in 1854, at 6 per cent.; in 1852, Australia required banking accommodation; in 1854, Australia was provided with upwards of £10,000,000 for banking purposes. These arguments, however, had not been strong enough to convince the directors, who declared their intention to proceed, in order to preserve the privileges of the charter. After some discussion, resolutions were passed condemning the policy of the board, and authorising a subscription not exceeding 2s. per share, to raise funds to defray the expenses attending a settlement of the question.

ST. PANCRAS, MARYLEBONE, AND PADDINGTON FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY.—On Friday (last week) the promoters and members of this association presented to Mr. Samuel Spong, the able secretary, a massive silver tea service, in recognition of the success which had followed his efforts in behalf of this society, which was the first association of the kind registered in the metropolis.

MR. THOMAS BARING, M.P., has consented to be nominated for the chairmanship of the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, which has become vacant by the demise of Mr. Alderman Thompson, M.P.

#### OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

##### HAYES, THIRD VISCOUNT DONERAILE.

THE death of this nobleman occurred at Doneraile House, county Cork, on Monday, the 27th ult. His Lordship had completed his sixty-eighth year, having been born 9th May, 1786. He was only son of Hayes St. Leger, second Viscount Doneraile, by Charlotte, his wife, sister of Francis, first Earl of Bandon, and grandson of St. Leger Aldworth, Esq., who succeeded to the estates of his maternal ancestors, the Viscounts Doneraile, assumed the surname of St. Leger, and was raised to the peerage of Ireland in 1776. Few families in the empire are more ancient or distinguished than that of St. Leger. Its patriarch in England was Sir Robert Sent Legere, one of the companions in arms of the Conqueror; and, according to tradition, the person who supported that Prince with his arm when he quitted the ship to land in Sussex. The late Lord Doneraile married, 14th June, 1816, Charlotte Elizabeth, second daughter of Francis, first Earl of Bandon; and by her (who died 7th February, 1846), leaving an only son, Hayes, present and fourth Viscount, born 1st October, 1840, who married, 20th August, 1851, Mary Anne Grace Louisa, only daughter of G. Lenox Conyngham, Esq., and has issue. The deceased Peer was Colonel of the South Cork Light Infantry, and one of the Irish representative Peers.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR RICHARD ARMSTRONG, K.C.B., COLONEL 32ND FOOT.

THE death of this distinguished officer took place on board the ship *Barham* on the homeward journey from Madras to England, on the 3rd ult. Sir Richard, who was born in 1782 (the only son of Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Armstrong, of Lincoln), entered the army as an Ensign in 1796, served in the Peninsula from 1798 to 1814, and received a medal and two clasps for his gallantry in command of the 16th Portuguese and the 10th Caçadores at Buaco, Vitoria, and the Pyrenees. In the last-named conflict he was severely wounded. The other principal actions in which Sir Richard Armstrong participated were the capture of Oporto, the affairs of Pombal and Melhão, the defence of Alba de Tormes, and the battle of Louçou. After this gallant course, Sir Richard entered the Portuguese army; and from the Portuguese Government he received a medal for having served six campaigns with their troops, as well as the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Tower and Sword, and of St. Bento d'Aviz. In later years the gallant officer acted in India, as Brigadier during the first Burmese war; and as Major-General on the staff in Canada. By his own Sovereign he was knighted in 1831, and made a Knight Commander of the Bath in 1852. In 1851 he became Lieutenant-General, and in the same year was appointed Commander-in-Chief at Madras: this command he resigned in consequence of impaired health brought on by the effects of climate. Sir Richard married, in 1803, Elizabeth, daughter of John Champion, Esq., and was left a widower in 1833.

## THE WELLINGTON MEMORIAL AT BRIGHTON.

THE restoration and enlargement of the ancient Parish Church of St. Nicholas, at Brighton, commenced a year since, have just been completed by Mr. R. C. Carpenter. As a record of the circumstances, which especially led to this renovation, a cenotaph of tabernacle work to the memory of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington has been erected in the eastern part of the chantry. The design is elaborate, hexagonal in form, and rising with a spire-like outline, from the pavement to the extreme height of the roof. On an engraved plate of brass surrounding the lower division, is inscribed the following legend: "In memoriam Maximi Ducis Wellington, haec domus sacro sancta, quia ipse adolescens Deum colebat, redificatur." The windows are all filled with stained glass, chiefly of that simple kind known as "grisaille," a kind of glass much in use at the date of this building, viz., the time of Edward III. The east window, however, is enriched with medallions, in allusion to the occupation of the original inhabitants of Brighton, and their descendants, and contains the following subjects: — In the centre of the three lights a representation of the miracle of our Lord walking on the sea, and on either side, the calling of S. S. Andrew and Peter, and the miraculous draught of fishes.

The contributors to the Wellington Memorial, residing not only in Brighton, but also in the county of Sussex, and in London, it was proposed, as a matter of justice, to open the contract to four eminent builders at Brighton, two eminent builders in the county of Sussex, and two eminent builders in London.

The lowest tender was that of Mr. Bushby, of Littlehampton, who has given general satisfaction to the Committee.

These tenders did not include a provision for the Wellington Memorial, painted windows, extra work to the tower, and improvements, and fencing of the churchyard, &c.

It is a gratification to record the universal feeling, that Mr. R. C. Carpenter, has displayed the utmost architectural accuracy in the restoration of the church, a work always more difficult and responsible than that of an original structure.

## TYNEMOUTH ELECTION.

THE contest for the representation of the borough of Tynemouth, which ended in the return of Mr. Lindsay, as we were enabled to state in a portion of last week's impression, was carried on with great animation. The nomination, which took place on Wednesday, was not quite so enthusiastic an affair as has been witnessed in the borough on former occasions of a similar nature; but the polling made up for this. The hustings



"THE WELLINGTON MEMORIAL," JUST ERECTED IN ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, BRIGHTON.

were erected in front of the Town-hall, at North Shields; and Mr. Dickson and his friends occupied that portion of them to the right of the Mayor; while Mr. Lindsay and his friends and supporters took up their position on the opposite side. Mr. Dickson, the Conservative candidate, was proposed by Mr. T. Barker, and seconded by Mr. John Dryden. Mr. Lindsay was proposed by Mr. Joseph Straker, and seconded by Mr. John Rennison. Both candidates having addressed the electors at some length, a show of hands was taken, when a large majority were held up in favour of Mr. Lindsay. Mr. Barker demanded a poll on behalf of Mr. Dickson, which the Mayor fixed to take place next morning, at eight o'clock.

The poll opened with great vigour at eight o'clock on Thursday morning, and throughout the day considerable excitement, yet combined with good order and temper, prevailed. Mr. Lindsay went off with the lead, with Mr. Dickson nearing him every hour, and at two o'clock reducing his majority to twelve; but between two and three o'clock Mr. Lindsay gained three upon his opponent, and finally came in a winner of one of the hardest-fought contests ever witnessed in that borough by a majority of seventeen. The annexed figures give a view of the progress of this well-contested battle:—

	Nine	Eleven	One	Two	Three	Four
Lindsay..	143 ..	234 ..	223 ..	284 ..	350 ..	357
Dickson..	115 ..	274 ..	311 ..	326 ..	333 ..	349
Majority..	28 ..	20 ..	12 ..	12 ..	15 ..	17

The declaration of the result of the poll was made by the Mayor from the hustings shortly after five o'clock to an immense concourse, and Mr. Lindsay, on being declared duly elected, returned thanks for the honour that his return had conferred upon him. Amidst other observations, he adverted to the circumstance of the distinction being enhanced by the fact that on the Tyne, about twenty years before, he was but a sailor-boy; he might almost say he had commenced his career on that river, as he had first obtained the command of a vessel here; and now, after the lapse of twenty years, he had been elevated by them to the responsible and honourable position of being their representative in the Legislature. Renewing his assurances of faithfulness to their interests, he retired amidst loud applause.

Mr. Dickson, who was accompanied by a number of his friends, presented himself amidst much cheering, and also briefly addressed the electors. He said that, though he had certainly been disappointed by the result, he might well be proud of the position which he occupied on the poll, and congratulated himself and his friends on having received an amount of support which all but gave him the election.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor—on the motion of Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Dickson—terminated the proceedings at the hustings; and the election closed with the "chairing" of the new member round the streets of Tynemouth and Shields.



THE BOROUGH OF TYNEMOUTH ELECTION.

DESTRUCTION OF  
HUNGERFORD-HALL  
BY FIRE.

This fine building—one of the speculative structures of the Exhibition year—was totally destroyed by a fire, which broke out on Friday (last week), about half-past seven o'clock. It appears the misfortune was occasioned by two boys who were engaged on the premises. The money-taker of the establishment had arrived at the building at his usual time (a quarter past seven o'clock), soon after which it was the custom to light the gas preparatory to admitting the public at eight o'clock. The two boys were noticed by the money-taker lighting the different gas jets by means of ignited pieces of paper; but, seeing that they threw the remaining portion of paper on the floor, he cautioned them that if they did not desist, in all probability they would set the theatre in flames. At that moment he heard some one ascending the stairs, and thinking it was a person who was going to pay to see the evening performance, he hurried to the money-taker's place, and was then, to his astonishment, informed that the panorama was on fire.

The property destroyed or seriously damaged by the calamitous event has been found to be far greater than it was at first anticipated, scarcely a single shop on either side of the grand hall escaped from receiving damage to a more or less extent; and the whole of the roof of the market in the immediate vicinity of the fire is very seriously damaged—the glass windows being demolished, and much of the roof burned away or broken.

The part of the property in which the misfortune commenced was at least 140 feet long, and two floors high, whilst under the same was a



FIRE AT HUNGERFORD HALL, STRAND.

floor about 10 or 12 feet shorter, flush with the pavement of the square from whence the omnibusses start. This place was empty, but had been taken by Messrs. Thorne and Sons, the brewers, of Westminster, for an ale store; and, had the conflagration taken place two or three days

of fire—lighting the gas. The fire was extinguished by firemen, and one engine of A, five of B, three of C, one of D, and that of the West of England Insurance-office. The steam-float also attended; 140 hired auxiliaries assisted the firemen in working the engines.



THE CHINESE "IMPALEMENT" FEAT, AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

The centre grand hall is burned out, and roof of shops round the same damaged. Contents not insured; buildings in the Sun and Westminster Fire-offices.

No. 26, Hungerford-market, Mr. A. B. Watson, grocer.—Stock in trade and furniture damaged by water and removal; insured in the Union Fire-office.

Hungerford-market.—The skylight broken, and roof much damaged by fire and breakage; insured in the Sun and Westminster Offices.

No. 31, Hungerford-market, Messrs. Gatti, confectioners. Great damage to stock in trade, by water, &c.; insured in the Union Fire-office.

No. 30, ditto, Mr. E. Harrison, print-seller.—Similar damage; insured in the Union Fire-office.

No. 67, ditto, Mr. Martin, fruiterer.—Stock in trade, &c., damaged by water and removal; insured in the Sun Fire-office.

On Sunday many thousand persons who landed at Hungerford-pier, flocked to the ruins; but Scott, the head engineer, left in charge of the place, knowing the dangerous condition of the iron columns still standing above, very properly refused to allow any one to enter the gates of the building.

## METEOR SEEN AT WESTMINSTER.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

April 1, 1854.

THIS evening, while returning home, about ten o'clock, along Victoria-street, Westminster, with my back to Westminster Abbey, I was startled by a sudden and vivid light; when, on hastily turning, I saw a meteoric

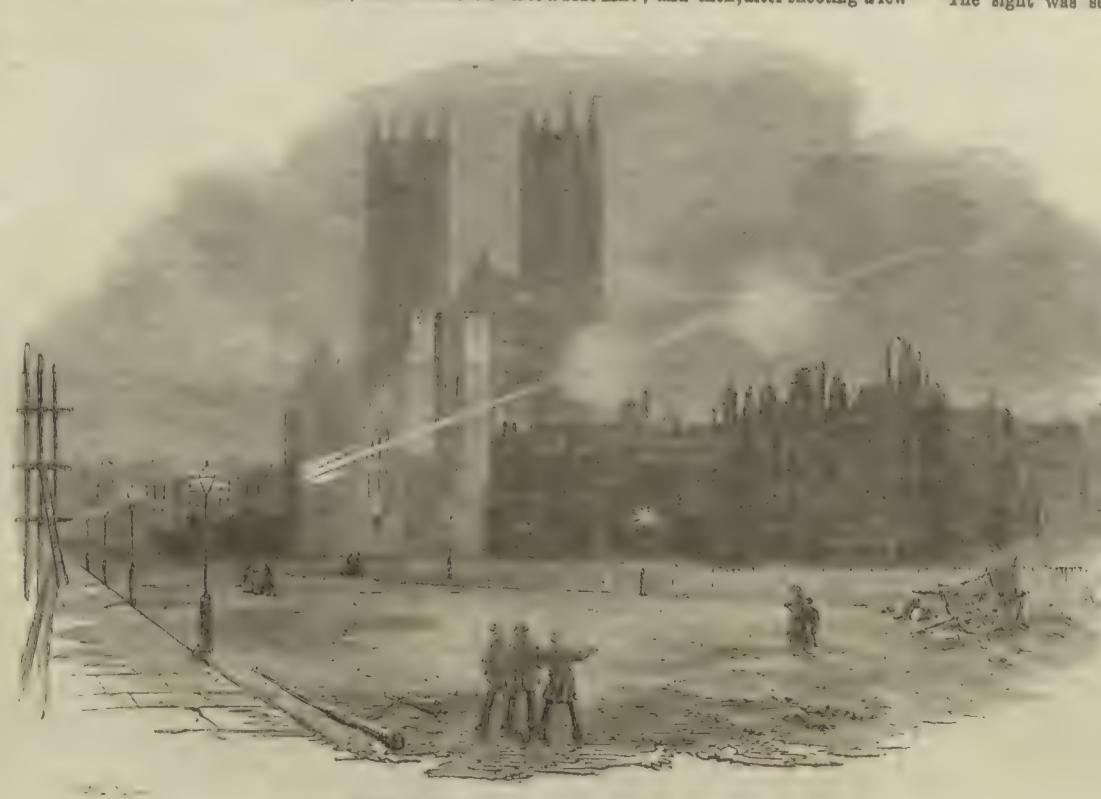
appearance horizontally crossing the street, slightly above the ground—perhaps at a distance of thirty feet. A rapid but faint explosion followed, with a coruscation like a blue mist; and then, after shooting a few

yards, the phenomenon disappeared in three jets—pale green, red, and orange.

The sight was seen by several spectators round me. The evening was still and starlight, and the whole transit of the meteor occupied but a few seconds. I send you a sketch of the phenomenon.

I remain, &c.,  
MACKENZIE WALCOTT.  
Coleshill-street, Belgravia.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.  
In our Journal of last week we noticed the performances of the group of Chinese jugglers at this theatre. Their approach to Europe was heralded by certain para-graphic despatches in Transatlantic journals, which, in their peculiar style, prepared us for the reception of the strange and new. Mr. Smith announced their appearance on the boards of Old Drury as that of "the greatest magicians, necromancers, and acrobats now living." Our Chelsea philosopher, Mr. Thomas Carlyle, would probably object to this, and inform the enterprising lesser that the "greatest and least of things" never yet entered into any man's experience; or, at least, that no man was logically able to assert that they had done so." But, disregarding all such transcendental and other dogmas, the present authorities of the theatres, corroborated by abundant examples in the past, erase from the managerial lexicon the word "impossibility" in all its senses with more than Napoleonic determination. The "greatest" in their way are, therefore, recognisable for a British public on the national stage in these natives of the Celestial Empire. Last week we



METEOR SEEN AT WESTMINSTER, ON SATURDAY EVENING.

later, Messrs. Thorne would have lost about 4000 or 5000 barrels of ale, which were ready to be removed to the stores. The firm had, in fact, just finished painting and repairing the place for the reception of the ale.

The Panorama was the property of a private gentleman, named Nelson, who had spent between £2000 and £3000 in having the picture of the Great Duke's funeral properly and effectively painted. Not a vestige of the painting or even of the canvas now remains.

The only part of the property belonging to the great or grand hall that has been saved was the shrubbery leading to the galleries. It is exceedingly fortunate that the conflagration did not take place an hour later, when the audience would have been seated; if it had, it is impossible to tell how many lives might have been sacrificed when the general rush upon a sudden alarm of fire took place, more especially as the means of egress were uncommonly narrow and dark.

The official report of Mr. Superintendent Braidwood states, *inter alia*—

That he was called to a fire in the great hall of Hungerford-market at half-past seven p.m., on Friday last. The hall was used as an exhibition of a Panorama of the Duke of Wellington's Funeral, and was rented by Mr. J. Nelson. The building belonged to the Hungerford-market Company, and was insured in the Sun and the Westminster Fire-offices. Mr. Nelson was uninsured. Cause





## EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

## (SECOND NOTICE.)

AMONGST the landscapes, which we rather hastily noticed in our last article, are several which are entitled to individual mention; and we, accordingly, give them precedence on the present occasion.

10. "Ebenberg, from the Rheingrafenstein, on the Nahe." By G. Cole. A fine old baronial ruin, in a wild mountainous region; very ably painted. The eye almost climbs step by step the abrupt acclivity upon which the castle stands, the higher points of which are partly fringed with mist. Below is a straggling and shallow stream, in the shady recesses of which cattle are seen. The only particular in which we find fault with Mr. Cole, in the composition of this picture, is in the introduction of the wagon with its contents in the foreground, the local colour of which spoils the general artistic effect, whilst it also detracts from the historic interest of the scene.

33. "Chiswick, the last resting-place of Hogarth." By A. F. Rolfe. A nice quiet landscape, so far as the principal point of interest which occupies the middle ground and the distant sky effects concerned; but here, as in the last case, the general beauty of the picture is marred by the vulgar figures in the foreground.

77. "Entrance of Boulogne Harbour." By J. Wilson, junior. A clever sea piece. A brisk gale is blowing across the mouth of the harbour; and on the right, on a lee-shore, and enveloped in a dark cloud, is a vessel in distress. The agitation of the water is admirably represented, as also are the quaint details of the two wooden jetties.

92. "Scarborough." By A. Clint. We spoke of this fine picture in our last, as one of the best works in the Exhibition. When we saw it under the influence of an atmosphere somewhat overcast—as was the case on the day of the private view—we, with others, were struck with the gloom and coldness of the prevailing tone, which we deprecated accordingly. Upon subsequent inspection, under a brighter sky, this effect has appeared considerably modified; the lights of the picture, subdued though they be, have come out with greater effect than previously, more particularly in the rocky hollow in which the town is situated. The massive body of sea which occupies so large a portion of the canvas is grand in aspect, and has been executed with a masterly hand. Of this fine work we have great pleasure in giving an Engraving, to which medium, by the way, it is, in composition, and tone, well adapted.

105. "The Reekie Lynn Waterfall," near Linthratin, Forfar, Scotland. By G. Beetholme. This is a carefully painted scene of rock and water torrent; rather minute and hard in detail, after the model of

the modern German school, some specimens of which have recently been exhibited in this country. It is hung too high, however, for us to judge accurately of its merit in many respects.

very delicate in colour. The clasp in her hand explains at once the import of the title—"La Pensée."

215. "On the Trent, near Castle Donington, Leicestershire," by J. C. Ward. A curiously constructed landscape, and one not favourable to effective result, the whole expanse of foreground being occupied by water, and the background by trees of monotonous character, and thickly planted; the middle distance being defined by the introduction of a weir, which also stretches across the picture. There are no breaks in the contour of the scenery—no accidental recesses—no extreme distance to seduce the eye to explore various portions of the canvas in succession. And yet, with all these disadvantages in respect of material, Mr. Ward has produced a good and effective picture; a rich yet cool verdant tint pervading the whole, either local or reflected in the water; which is by no means displeasing.

286. "A Calm near the Entrance to Port Maddoc, North Wales." By A. Clint. A striking contrast to the stormy effects of the "Scarborough," already spoken of; but a very speaking and satisfactory picture. Here, again, the ocean surface usurps the lion's share of the canvas, the bit of coast scenery occupying but a comparatively small portion; and yet sufficient to give warmth and life.

260. "Sheep on the Downs;" and 443, "Landscape and Figures, near Caldecott Castle." By W. W. Gosling. We have already spoken of this young artist's improving talent, as displayed in the present Exhibition; but we cannot pass over, without noticing by name the two pictures, which display his resources and his fancy in other departments than that of mere landscape. In the first-named the sheep, and the shepherd-boy reclining on a bank, are full of life and truth, and the mild light in the distant horizon is charmingly suggestive of rural calm. In the second picture the artist is more ambitious, both in respect of the number and variety of objects introduced, and in the colouring allotted to them; but truth obliges us to add that, as the result, there is a little spottiness and want of keeping observable—an error, by the way, which, as we observed, slightly detracted from the merit of his fine tree-study in the Great Room.

Amongst the figure subjects we select for engraving (48) "La Pensée," by C. Baxter. This beautiful picture was mentioned in terms of admiration in our last. In now engraving it we need hardly point attention to the charming sentiment infused into the expression; and the natural and ladylike deportment of the figure. The drapery is also very gracefully studied, and in the original is



"LA PENSEE"—PAINTED BY C. BAXTER.



"SCARBOROUGH"—PAINTED BY A. CLINT.



# ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. XXIV.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1854.

[GRATIS.

## JAPAN AND THE RUSSIAN WAR.

THE world against the Russian Empire is a fearful odds, even physically speaking; but it is still more appalling when the universal sense of mankind proclaims the undeniable truth, that every principle of honour and justice is equally against it. At the same time, it is a wise axiom not to underrate an enemy, however strong the odds are in our favour; for human affairs are full of strange chances, and the power which is hazarding all this risk is quite alive to the necessity for straining every nerve of its vast force in every quarter of the globe. And great wars are not now confined to small fields, like games of chess; their influence spreads and is felt from pole to pole. Thus we observe in the present shaking and loosening of the chords of peace, the interests of all Europe and Asia, the two mighty ancient quarters of the earth, are extensively affected; northern Africa is moved by the pressure of circumstances; and the New World, America, must keep a wary eye upon events as they occur. Amid the complication, as we a few weeks ago laid before our readers certain intelligence regarding China, we are disposed, partly from the same source, to submit a few remarks on the subject of the adjoining Empire of Japan, cruising in whose seas we find Russian ships of war; and observe that the American squadron is on its way for a second visit to the guarded coast. Japan must follow in the wake of China, though Russia has been trying in vain for half a century to get the edge of the wedge in, though the Jesuits and Portuguese were detested and expelled; though the Dutch are only permitted to have a marvellously cramped commercial intercourse with the single port of Nangasaki, and though the Chinese are very little more tolerated, and held in the odour of rogues and thieves. Yet *ubi mel ibi apes*—where there

is honey, there will be bees clustering about; and where there are abundance of articles for profitable trade, perseverance will in the end effect an entrance into the sanctum; and such appears to be the condition of the crisis, which, through other changes in the Eastern Seas, is now approaching the long closely-sealed empire of Japan.

The matters which, at this moment, co-operate towards a revolution in the irrevocable system of Japan, are, as we have referred to them, the contemporaneously renewed efforts of Russia from her Kamchatkan border; the new intrusion of America, and the contagion of the Chinese convulsion; and, not the least of all, the enterprising spirit of English commerce, striving at every point not to be left behind hand in the "Open sesame" spell, and possessing many advantages to give it the best in the race.

The power of Japan to resist this influx consists chiefly in the geographical nature of the islands of which the Empire is composed, and the climate of prevalent tenebrian fogs which envelopes them. Not contented with the degree of safety secured by these elements, the Government of the country has, from time immemorial, resorted to the politic precautions which have kept them out of danger ever since the religious insurrection which was drowned in torrents of Christian blood. Acting upon this policy, as is well known, all vessels reaching Japanese ports are arrested and their crews closely imprisoned; no ships of war are permitted to touch the shore; a single port and particular seasons of the year are appointed for the limited intercourse of trade; no person is allowed to penetrate into the interior under pain of not being suffered to return; and no religious rite or worship of any kind is tolerated either in strangers or natives,

except the maimed rights belonging to the semi-Buddhist belief and ceremonies prescribed by a profligate priesthood under a Lama-like spiritual head, held to be superior to the reigning Emperor, and almost idolized as a God, but quite destitute of temporal authority. This authority is shared with the actual ruler very much after the manner of our feudal Barons of old; and, though slaves to custom, there is said to be among these Princes opinions not altogether in unison with the existing forms and ancient institutions. The people are of a diminutive and feeble race, though they keep and use the stout hairy Kuriles in bondage as beasts of burden; are, like all weak creatures, jealous, cautious, timid, cunning, and cowardly. Their fortifications and strong places are (as their dwellings) mostly of wood, as the frequent earthquakes forbid stone buildings; and an idea of their character may be suggested by their practice of covering the walls with cloth hangings, in order to disguise them and conceal the nature of their defences. Armed with matchlocks, some muskets, bows and arrows, pikes, spears, and sabres; with few cannon and inferior gunpowder, the army raised from such a population, though numerous (and it is reckoned at 150,000, capable of being more than doubled in the event of war), could not be very formidable, even when commanded by chiefs in complete and splendid suits of armour.

But our informant calculates yet more strongly upon an element which we were not aware continued to exist in such force in Japan. There is, however, a considerable proportion of what must, for want of a more correct term, be called Christians among the natives, secretly maintaining, like the Chinese Triad and other societies, a barbarized faith, and ready to rise, if opportunity were offered, against their persecutors. The proof of this fact, and of



PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—A MIDNIGHT SCENE ON BOARD H.M.S. "DAUNTLESS," IN WINGO SOUND.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

the knowledge of it possessed by their oppressors, is visible in the bitter intolerance with which the slightest semblance of Christianity is regarded. Careless of their own religion, the penalty of death—rare for the most heinous crimes—is the doom of any unfortunate wretch even suspected of this enormous guilt—such is the extreme political jealousy with which it is viewed. And to this day, the olden story of the Dutch traders being compelled to trample on the cross, is annually enforced upon numbers of the inhabitants of Nangasaki itself (and probably throughout the Empire), who are marched to the temples, and ordered to tread under foot every sacred emblem of the Christian faith. In the event of invasion, there is no doubt but that a great diversion would arise in favour of the invaders; and at an epoch when we see so many causes tending to the same issue, it is a warning of wisdom to teach the community to keep a good lookout on what is so likely to happen, and so soon, not only in China and Japan, but in all the adjacent territories in the Indian Archipelago. The ice is everywhere breaking up, and the first to avail themselves of the clear water will reap the richest returns.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

The episodal illustration upon the previous page is from a sketch of a midnight scene on board H.M.S. "Dawnless," in Wingo Sound. The incident is suggestive; and the sharpening of swords close to one of the ship's large guns may be added to the long list of "Preparations for War." The grinding process is simple enough, and scarcely differs from that employed many centuries since. In a MS. Master, written about the time of King Stephen, and preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, is a representation of two men grinding a sword-blade, which represents the usual construction of grinding machinery at that time. The grindstone is mounted upon a horizontal axis, which one man turns by means of a crank, and the sword, which is straight and pointed, is pressed down upon its periphery by the other man, who sits on a beam above the level of the stone, so that his weight may be conveniently thrown upon the sword, to press it firmly against the stone.

We add a few notes of Wingo, which is a rock near the entrance to Gotheborg (or Goteborg), on the coast of Sweden. Wingo Sound, between Buskar and Botta, has good holding-ground in fifteen or sixteen fathoms water; as a stopping-place, this roadstead is very commodious, partly for vessels outward bound, with N.W. or W. winds, and partly for those going to Gotheborg and meeting contrary winds in the narrows between the rocks. A heavy sea, however, sets in there with a S.W. wind. But in the fiord of Kilo, four miles to the eastward of Wingo, in the inlet to Gotheborg, ships may ride sheltered in all winds, and this roadstead is spacious enough for the largest fleet in eight fathoms of water, and on good holding ground. The city of Gotheborg has extensive water communication with the interior of Sweden, and has a large trade. Its population is near 30,000. The fleet in the above position would effectually command the Baltic, so that no ships could pass from that inland sea without its observation.

Kiel Bay is on the eastern coast of Holstein, a little to the south of Schleswig. It is a spacious and most beautiful bay, and possesses the paramount advantage of communication by railway with Hamburg, besides any amount of victualling supplies, which are both good and cheap. Cables are also plentiful, and may be had at a reasonable contract price.

#### THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS ON THE TURKISH QUESTION.

We made some allusions in our last to the New Series of Letters and Despatches on the Turkish question, which were presented to Parliament by her Majesty's command, and printed and issued to the public on the 29th ult. These papers throw a valuable light on the part performed by the Austrian Government in all the late negotiations, and go far to justify the hope that Austria will be true, not only to her recorded sentiments, but to her duty towards Europe and the Maritime Powers with whom she so long acted in friendly concert. The principal points of interest refer to Count Orloff's mission, from which the Emperor of Russia evidently expected so much, and which so signally failed.

Count Orloff arrived at Vienna on the 28th January, 1854, on a special mission from the Emperor of Russia to the Emperor of Austria. The object of this mission was, to quote the words of the Earl of Westmoreland to the Earl of Clarendon, contained in a telegraphic despatch dated February 4th, that "the Emperor of Austria should engage himself to a strict neutrality in the event of a war between Turkey and Russia; in which it appeared that England and France were about to take part." This stipulation was met by another on the part of the Court of Vienna, that "the Emperor of Russia should confirm his engagements not to pass the Danube; to evacuate the Principalities after the war; and not to disturb the general arrangement at present existing of the Turkish provinces." The reply of Count Orloff to this proposition was to the effect that "the Emperor of Russia could take no engagement." The consequence of this was the rejection by the Conference of the Count's proposals. The advisers of the Emperor of Austria, however, proposed another basis of pacification, the terms of which were inclosed in a letter from the Earl of Westmoreland to Earl Clarendon, under date February 2nd, and are as follow:—

1. The full and entire confirmation of former treaties concluded between Russia and the Porte, dating from that of Kainarji, and of the special conventions of Adrianople relative to the Danubian Principalities and to Servia.

2. Explanations to be recorded by the respective Plenipotentiaries charged with the negotiation of peace in a separate act in the form of a Protocol, or of an additional article, concerning the signification and practical application of the former and latter firmans of the Sultan's relative to religious liberty, and to the immunities accorded to the Churches of the Orthodox Eastern rite.

3. The evacuation, with the least possible delay, of the Danubian provinces, and of the other territories and towns forming part of the Sultan's dominions which may, in consequence of the events of the war, be occupied by the Russian armies, so soon as the arrangements shall be concluded.

4. The re-establishment of the order of things, and of the government of the Principalities, such as they were settled by the stipulations of Adrianople.

5. The regulation of the right of asylum, and of the conditions in which it should for the future be accorded, in the respective countries, to agitators and revolutionists who, under the guise of political refugees, might foment dissensions and create misunderstandings between friendly and neighbouring Governments.

Count Orloff, on the eve of his departure, which took place on the 8th of February, held a private conversation with Count Buol. The latter, at this interview, made a new proposal on the part of the Austrian Government. The following extract, from a communication made by M. de Bourqueney to the French Government, and quoted in a letter from Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon, under date February 9th, contains the substance of this conversation:—"That Russia should send from St. Petersburg the preliminaries of a peace based on the propositions of the 18th of January preceding (published in the papers previously presented to Parliament), that M. de Meyendorff should be authorised to introduce into them any modifications thought necessary by the Conference to whose consideration they would be submitted; that these preliminaries should be sent without delay to Constantinople, and their acceptance followed by an armistice. When accepted by the Porte, the Principalities to be evacuated, and the fleets to be withdrawn. A place to be fixed for the signature of the Treaty of Peace." "M. de Baol, in making this communication to the Conference," says Lord Cowley in the same despatch, "added that it was not to be looked upon in the light of a Russian proposition, but as an idea that Count Orloff had promised to recom-

mend to his Imperial master to adopt. He wished the members of the Conference to submit it to the consideration of their respective Governments, in order that they might be prepared to enter upon the subject should Count Orloff succeed in his endeavours." Very little, however, was expected from this communication at the time by the members of the Conference; and Lord Cowley's opinion was that M. Drouyn de Lhuys, who had a short time previously left the Emperor of the French, had no faith in its success.

The Earl of Clarendon, in a despatch to Lord Cowley, under Feb. 16, with respect to this last proposal:—

Her Majesty's Government think that this proposal can only lead to delay, and may tend to set Austria at variance with France and England; and her Majesty's Government will instruct her Majesty's Minister at Vienna to inform Count Buol that no further demands can be made upon the Porte, and that her Majesty's Government can be no party to a modification of the Turkish terms, which have been declared by the Conference to be just and reasonable, and such as ought to be accepted by Russia.

Lord Clarendon having been informed by Count Colloredo, the Austrian Ambassador at the Court of St. James's, of certain facts of which he had been cognisant from Vienna, communicated them to Lord Westmoreland in a letter dated February 20th, 1854. In this letter Lord Clarendon states:—

Perceiving the favourable dispositions of Count Orloff towards peace, and impressed by the fact that the difference which exists between the basis of pacification proposed by either party seem to have reference rather to their form than to their substance, Count Buol turned his attention to some means of restoring peace, which might be suggested to the Courts of St. Petersburg; and, having received authority of the Emperor of Austria, introduced such a plan in his conversation with Count Orloff, of the understanding that Count Orloff must not attribute to Count Buol's idea the character of an overture on the part of the Court of Austria, or of a desire on their part to assume an immediate position between Russia and the Maritime Powers, as it was simply an attempt made in goodwill towards conciliation.

Count Buol left it to Count Orloff to make use of these ideas if he judged proper. Count Orloff appeared disposed to submit them to the Emperor of Russia, and requested Count Buol, at the same time, to pave the way, so as to ensure for them a favourable reception by the three Courts, in the event of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg deciding to adopt them.

With this object, Count Buol instructed Count Colloredo to ascertain the feelings of the British Government in this matter; and stated that, in these proceedings, he had in view—first, to secure to the Conference the participation he wished to have in the work of peace; secondly, to conciliate the self-love which had been brought into play, by setting aside any questions of form likely to offend it; and, thirdly, to obtain, as soon as possible, the evacuation of the Turkish territories, and the cessation of hostilities.

Lord Clarendon goes on to state that he told Count Colloredo that, without analysing all the grave objections to which these propositions were liable, they would entail a most inconvenient delay; and that, although they were said to have been made in an informal manner, yet, if they were accepted by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, Count Buol would find himself bound by them, and the great object of the Emperor of Russia, viz., that of creating disunion between the Four Powers might be effectually attained.

Lord Clarendon reaffirmed that her Majesty's Government would recognise no propositions but those which were transmitted to St. Petersburg on the 13th January, and could consent to no modification of terms that had been declared by the Conference to be reasonable; and that, in the meanwhile, they would not relax in those preparations which were now actively making for bringing to a speedy conclusion the war in which Europe was about to be involved by the Emperor of Russia.

A letter from the Earl of Westmoreland to the Earl of Clarendon, dated February 18th, throws additional light upon Count Buol's proposals:—

Count Buol has informed me that he has received despatches from Paris, stating that the French Government, although not much expecting any favourable result from the suggestion he had made to Count Orloff before his departure, nevertheless agreed to the mode and terms of negotiation therein stated, with the exception of the condition requiring the combined fleets to quit the Bosphorus before the conclusion of peace. Count Buol entirely concurs in this reserve.

He stated that the French Government had also made some remarks upon his having only mentioned to the Russian Government, in the statements made to Count Orloff, that they should abstain from passing the Danube, but without requiring the immediate evacuation of the Principalities.

Count Buol said his statements to Count Orloff were a message of peace; and he therefore avoided anything irritating which it was not necessary to put forth. That if Russia should unfortunately reject the means of negotiation open to her, circumstances would require a different declaration to be made, and he took this opportunity of reiterating that Austria was bound by her declarations to uphold and maintain, without reserve, the integrity and independence of the Turkish Empire.

Count Buol said that this policy was the policy which he had declared from the commencement of these unfortunate discussions, and that it was with great pleasure that he read through the correspondence which had been presented to Parliament upon Eastern affairs, and that he was most entirely satisfied with all that was stated therein, with regard to the Austrian Government, either by your Lordship or myself.

All these attempts at agreement upon the terms of pacification having failed, it was resolved to give Russia a final chance, and Count Buol—as we learn from a telegraphic despatch from Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon, under date Feb. 22—

Assured M. de Bourqueney that, if England and France would fix a day for the evacuation of the Principalities, the expiration of which should be the signal of hostilities, the Cabinet of Vienna would support the summons. M. Drouyn de Lhuys was of opinion that this should be done immediately, and that the two Governments should write to Count Nesselrode to demand the immediate commencement of that evacuation, the whole to be concluded by a given time, say the end of March. Silence or refusal to be considered a declaration of war on the part of Russia.

The determination of the Austrian Government to join with England and France in the contingency thus defined, was reported in a letter from the Earl of Westmoreland to the Earl of Clarendon, under date Feb. 25. Count Buol, said the Earl of Westmoreland, approved of the summons, and would

Direct Count Esterhazy to support it, on the following grounds:—First, the original representations of the Austrian Cabinet to Russia, against the occupation of the Principalities. Secondly, the disastrous consequences resulting from refusal to evacuate them. Thirdly, the responsibility of the war with which Russia would charge herself by such refusal. Fourthly, citing the reply of the Austrian Government to Count Orloff's proposals, by which it reserved their entire liberty of action.

The haughty refusal of the Emperor of Russia to give any reply to this last proposal, and the consequent Declaration of War against Russia by the Governments of England and France, are now matters of history. It is possible that a few days will show us whether any faith may be placed in the declarations of Austria that the passage of the Danube by the Russians would be considered a *casus belli*.

THE ENROLLED PENSIONERS.—It is intended to organise this force into battalions, for the home service, and officer them from the half-pay.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE WIVES AND FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS ORDERED TO THE EAST.—At a meeting of the board of directors of the Conservative Land Society, the following resolution was passed:—"The executive committee being most anxious to aid the public efforts which are being made to raise a fund for the wives and children of the soldiers whose noble efforts are required in the cause of their country, have unanimously requested their chairman, Viscount Ranelagh, to place the mansion and grounds of St. Margaret's at the disposal of the committee in aid of the soldiers' wives and families, to be used in any public way they may think most advantageous to promote the interest of the charity." A reply has been received from Lord Ingestre, the chairman, of the sub-committee of the association, thanking the society for their offer, with the intimation that the organisation of a public entertainment in St. Margaret's Park would be taken into consideration.

#### NEW ORGANIZATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The Civil Service embraces the Treasury, the Colonial-office, the Home and Foreign Departments, the Admiralty, the Chief Secretary for Ireland's office, the Financial department of the War-office, the Board of Ordnance, the Board of Trade, the Poor-law Board, the Board of Works, the Privy Council-office, Copyhold Inclosure, and Tithe Commissioner, Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, and the Customs, Excise, and Land Revenue offices; in short, it embraces all the servants of the Crown not strictly legal, nor naval, nor military. It is exceedingly comprehensive, and its importance is second to none. While the Ministers may be changed with every change of the popular sentiment, the bulk of the civil servants of the Crown hold their situations permanently. The head men amongst them, such as the Under or Assistant-Secretaries of the Treasury, of the Home-office, Board of Trade, &c, are necessarily much better acquainted with all the business of their respective offices than any of the Ministers who successively, and generally for short periods, preside over these departments. Hence arises a necessity that the permanent Civil servants, who have to advise, assist, and often to guide the Ministers, and who are in many matters more influential than their superiors, should be men of "independence, character, ability, and experience." Their situations are, or, at least, ought to be, looked up to as the rewards of subordinates, who have otherwise important duties of their own to perform, and should be, therefore, men of good education, high character, and, at least, average ability. Hitherto, there has been no means of securing these important requisites; the Civil Service, like every other department of the State, has long needed reform; and, as early as 1848, a Treasury minute directed that an inquiry should be instituted into the subject, and appointed gentlemen connected with the Treasury to execute it. The chief of them was Sir Charles Trevelyan, Assistant Secretary to the Treasury; and a succession of reports on different departments, followed by Treasury minutes to carry them into effect, have been made. Latterly, Sir Charles has been chiefly associated with Sir Stafford Northcote in these inquiries, and their joint Report on the Organisation of the Permanent Civil Service was very recently laid before Parliament. It will, probably, be made the foundation of many changes; and therefore the following summary of it will be generally useful.

The Report first refers to the obstacles which impede the public service from getting good men—such as the ease of the service and the certainty of the reward, or pension, though small, which make persons of influence quarter their feeble, sickly, and indolent offspring or dependents, whose want of energy or of abilities is supposed to unfit them to succeed in the open professions, on the public service, in order to secure them the means of support. From this cause the Commissioners report, that a very large proportion of the public offices, though not all, are filled by inferior persons, who give a character of inefficiency to the whole. Even when youth of a different character enter the service, there is no opportunity beforehand of testing their capacity; after they enter promotion is a matter of routine. By preserving a fair character, a rising salary is secured as long as the man can work, and then he reires on a superannuation. There is no competition to improve those who enter very ignorant, and whose routine duties preclude them from acquiring a "varied experience of life." Offices are, in the first instance, filled with the dependents of heads of departments. "No pains are taken to secure a good man for an office; and, after his appointment, no means are used to turn his abilities to the best account." "When there is a vacancy of importance," the consequence is, that "some man of high standing in an open profession, or distinguished in other walks of life," is imported into the public service, discouraging the exertions of the Civil servants, branding them, in fact, with incapacity, and dooming them to inferiority. That certain high appointments should be filled by men of great abilities, whenever they can be found, is essential; but patronage has gone far beyond that, and filled lucrative and easy offices with persons of slender ability and questionable character, to the disgust of those who have served the country long and well. The Civil Service, too, though it comprises no less than 16,000 persons, is split into departments, to some one of which every individual is strictly limited; and none of them acquire that large experience, or are filled with those proud hopes which are the lot of the members of more comprehensive professions. The humblest lawyer looks up to be Lord Chancellor; the meanest curate may aspire to be an Archbishop; but clerks never become Ministers, and very rarely even rise to be the third or the fourth man in their department. From causes of this description, in the opinion of the Commissioners, the Civil Service does not obtain as efficient men as other services, nor are its duties so well performed.

The Commissioners recommend, as the means of obtaining more efficient servants, that young men should be trained for the public service, and should be carefully selected. They should be made to feel that their promotion and prospects depend entirely on their ability and their industry. Exertion only should secure a provision for life; and to superior abilities the highest prizes in the service should be offered. Already the clerks of some public offices are examined, and admitted on trial, before they are appointed. But such a preliminary proceeding will be ineffective as long as each department lays down separate rules; and the Commissioners therefore recommend that a Central Board of Examiners shall be appointed, composed of men of independent character, commanding general confidence, including some persons acquainted with official business, and some experienced in teaching, and should have at its head an officer of the rank of a Privy Councillor. The examination is to be "competing and literary," after preliminary inquiries have satisfied the examiners of the moral and physical capacities of the candidates. For the superior situations a competing examination, on a level with the highest description of education in the country, is to be instituted. For special services the examination is to be special; but it is not to be made with a view to filling vacancies. It is proposed that examinations should take place periodically, at stated times, when the number of persons to be admitted to the public service is to be announced, and the successful candidates distributed, according to their capacities, amongst the different departments. All persons of a given age and acquirement are to be admitted as candidates; and, to ensure knowledge and ability, the examination is to be very extensive, combining modern languages, history, jurisprudence, geography, political economy, the classics, and mathematics. By such measures the Commissioners are satisfied that the most marked improvement may be introduced into the public service.

To avoid local injustice examinations are to be held, at stated periods, in various parts of the United Kingdom, by a staff of assistant examiners, or by engaging the services of competent men. The age of admission is to be, for inferior officers, from seventeen to twenty-one; for superior officers, from nineteen to twenty-five. In order to preserve a proper distinction between intellectual and mechanical labour, supplementary clerks, who can be transferred from one department to another, receiving uniform salaries, have already been introduced, and carrying out the plan will, according to the report, mark and maintain the distinction. A recommendation to establish a general copying office, at which much of the mere drudgery might possibly be done by machinery, is referred to by the Commissioners, but not enforced. To avoid the evils of routine promotion, and of promotion according to merit, which is often promotion by caprice, the Commissioners recommend that, on a vacancy occurring, the chief clerk should make a report on the merits of three of the clerks below the vacancy to the secretary. The secretary is to submit the report to the chief of the office, with his own remarks, and the chief is to select from the three the person to be appointed, and is to set forth in his warrant the grounds on which the promotion is made. The record of all such proceedings will at all times enable the chief of the department to form a tolerably correct estimate of the merits of every individual. Good-service pensions, and honorary distinctions, to be conferred after a report from the Board of Examiners, is also recommended. An Act of Parliament would be required to carry these various recommendations into effect.

Such is an outline of a Report which has already occasioned much discussion: many objections, however, are made to it. There is no doubt that an especial training, with a view to enter the public service, may bring forth the peculiar talents required by those who regulate the service, and create a demand for such talent; but that an especial training will call into existence great general ability, such as is continually developed by the action of competition in society at large, is by no means certain.

## CHESS.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MASSASOIT, New York.—They shall receive attention.  
H. R. R.—They are all either curious or useful.  
B. W. F., Ashbourne.—The subscription for Country Members to the St. George's Chess-club is only one guinea per annum, and the entitles the member to free admission to the Wellington Chess-Salon. 2. Your Problems shall be examined.  
P. K. of B.—It shall have attention.  
A NEWMARKET SUBSCRIBER.—Our Solution of No. 526 is perfectly correct. The error is with you in not seeing it at when R takes Q R P, the other Pawn cannot take the look on account of White's Bishop.  
H. H. B., of Manchester.—We believe you are right. The author has overlooked the second solution.  
WALMOUTH.—Quite wrong. 2. No difference. 3. Sometimes. Address your letters simply to the Editor, and ask no more questions than are necessary, for we have no space to spare.  
G. W., Sunbury.—The solution required is as follows:

WHITE. BLACK.  
1. K to K 3rd Q takes Q B (ch)  
(Black has a choice of moves at this point, but none that can prolong the game.)  
2. B interposes (dis ch) Q takes K, or K moves  
3. Q to K 5th—Mate.

J. A. P. P.—A player may have two or more Queens on the board at the same time.

ARGUS.—Too much pressed for space at this moment. Apply again six months hence.

ONCEVER.—The best English translation of Greco is that by Mr. Lewis.

KING PEPPIN.—It is a subject to be regretted that throughout all Pa is there is not a single periodical which dedicates a portion of its columns to Chess. What are the proprietors of the French Illustrated Newspaper about?

RICARDO.—The shortest way is to send another diagram. We really do not know, among so many hundred Problems on hand, to which you refer. It may have been destroyed, or torn forced, or pulled elsewhere.

W. M. Witney.—Problems found to be wrong are destroyed. So you must be good enough to send another diagram.

VERITY.—It can be solved in five moves, and is of very indifferent construction besides.

T. R. P., Wakefield.—The last is pretty good.

RIPONDANENSIS.—A second Queen may be claimed for the Pawn.

L. G., Hounslow.—The author of "The Handbook" is not responsible for the rules of the game themselves. As to the particular one you cite, the best players of the last and the present age concur in its approval.

W. G. H., Farnhill.—They shall be duly examined and reported.

JONAS F. II.—Your Problem are now on for consideration.

HONORARY TREASURER.—Get the particulars of your Club inserted in the list of British Chess-clubs, which is given every month on the wrapper of the "Chess-Players' Chronicle." This will be of great convenience to every player in the field of travelling about the country, that it should be a point or duty with the officials of Chess Societies to render it as perfect as possible.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 526, by Anderson, J. P., Tait, J. T. C., Hyde, are correct. All others are wrong.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM NO. 527, by T. Addison, A. Day, Liverpool; Murphy, Silva, P. Q., Pinto-Chaves, J. P., M. F. of Kew, T. G. of Wells, W. M., J. G. Wood, Nuno, Verchy, J. M., of Scarborough, C. A. W., Birkenhead; Tait, S. M., J. Bury; J. W. S. of H. Lissel, Frederick, L. K., Matsumatus, W. Lloyd, Ifaues, Walwyn, H. Denney, Chelsea; Felix, G. H., T. S., Worcester; Davison, Liverpool; F. P., Cheltenham College; J. T. of Hanworth, B. B., A. H. J., F. R. of B. Gallois, Sulzheim, Toza, Fitz-Norman, J. H. P., M. P., J. T. C., Hyde, W. P., S. J., Dublin, are correct. All others are wrong.

## SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 527.

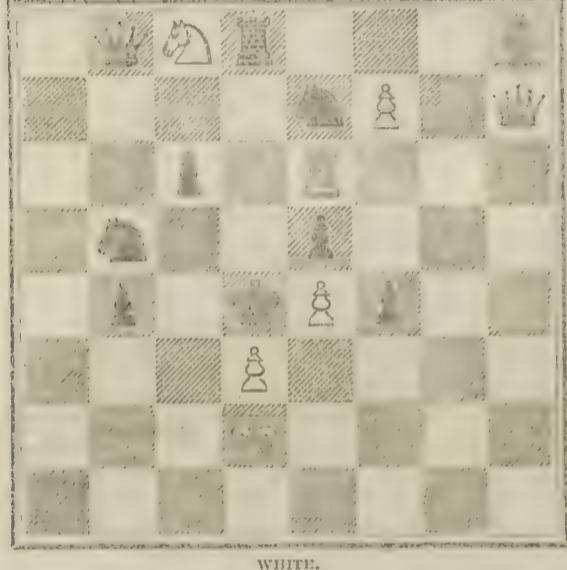
WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.  
1. Kt to K B 3rd P to K Kt 5th 3. K to his 3rd P moves  
2. B to K R 3rd P takes B 4. P mates.

## PROBLEM NO. 529.

By Mr. HEALEY.

(A masterpiece of strategy.)

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

Smart Game played between Mr. G. B. FRASER, of the Dundee Club, and an AMATEUR.  
(Evans' Gambit.)

WHITE (Mr. F.) BLACK (Amat.) WHITE (Mr. P.) BLACK (Amat.)  
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th 16. Q takes B (ch) Q to Q 2nd  
2. Kt to Kt B 3rd Kt to Q B 3rd 17. Q takes Kt P R to Q sq  
3. B to Q B 4th B to Q B 4th 18. Q takes K Kt B takes Q R  
4. P to Q Kt 4th B takes Kt P 19. R to K sq Q to Q 5th  
5. P to Q B 3rd B to Q R 4th 20. Q to K B 5th Q to Q 4th  
6. P to Q 4th P takes P 21. Q to K Kt 4th R to K Kt 4th  
7. Castles Kt to K B 3rd 22. P to K 6th B to K B 3rd  
8. P to K 5th P to Q 4th 23. P to K 7th R to Q 2nd  
9. B to Q Kt 5th B to K 5th 24. Q to Q Kt 4th Q to Q R sq  
10. B to Q Kt 3rd B to Q Kt 3rd 25. P to K B 3rd B to Q 5th  
11. Q takes P B to K 3rd 26. Kt to Q 2nd B to Q Kt 3rd  
12. Q to Q R 4th B to Q 2nd 27. Kt to K 4th Q to Q 4th  
13. Q to Q Kt 3rd Kt takes Q P 28. B to Q Kt 2nd Q to Q R 4th  
14. Kt takes Kt B takes Kt 29. B takes K Kt P And wins.

## CHESS IN BELGIUM.

The following stubbornly-contested Game was one among several played at Mechlin by Mr. STAUNTON against Mr. NEWMAN—a young, but most promising, Member of the Leeds Chess-club—Mr. S. giving the odds of his Queen's Rook:—

(Remove White's Q Rook from the Board).—(The Double Gambit)

WHITE (Mr. S.) BLACK (Mr. N.) WHITE (Mr. S.) BLACK (Mr. N.)  
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th 29. Q to Q 3rd P to Q Kt 4th  
2. K B to Q B 4th K B to Q B 4th 30. Q Kt to Q Kt 3rd P to Q R 3rd  
3. P to Q Kt 4th B takes Kt P 31. Q Kt to his sq R takes K Kt  
4. P to K B 4th (a) P to Q 3rd 32. P takes R Q takes K P  
5. K Kt to K B 3rd Q Kt to Q B 3rd 33. K to Ktsq (h) R to K sq  
6. Castles B to Q B 4th (ch) 34. R to K sq Q to Q B 5th (i)  
7. K to R sq Q to K 3rd 35. Q to K B 3rd R to K B 3rd  
8. B takes B P takes B 36. R to K B sq Q takes Q R P  
9. P to Q B 3rd K Kt to K B 3rd 37. Q to Q B 6th K to Kard  
10. P to Q 4th P takes Q P 38. Q takes Q B P Q to K 6th (ch)  
11. P takes P B to Q Kt 3rd 39. K to R sq P to Q 6th  
12. P to Q 5th (b) P takes P 40. Q to Q R 3rd (k) Q to K 7th  
13. P takes P Q Kt to K 2nd 41. K to Kt sq R to K 7th  
14. K Kt to Kt 5th Castles (c) 42. Q to Kt 3rd K to K 7th  
15. Kt to K 3rd Q to Q 2nd 43. Q to K B 7th Q to K 7th (ch)  
16. P to K B 5th (d) Q Kt takes Q P 44. K to R sq Kt to K B 7th  
17. B to K 5th (e) K B to K 5th 45. Q to Q 7th K to K 7th  
18. B takes Kt Kt takes B 46. K to Q 2nd Kt to K 5th  
19. Q to her Kt 3rd P to Q 4th (e) 47. Q to K B 7th Kt to K 5th  
20. Q takes B K Kt to K sq 48. K takes Kt Q takes Kt  
21. Q to K 5th Q R to K B sq 49. P to K 3rd Q to K 7th  
22. K Kt to Q 2nd Q to her 3rd 50. K to Kt sq P to Q 7th  
23. Q to K 2nd K Kt to K 2nd 51. Q to Q 2th Q to K 8th  
24. Q Kt to K B 3rd Kt to K 5th 52. Q to K B 3rd R to K sq  
25. Q to Q Kt 2nd P to Q B 4th 53. Q to Q 3rd Q takes K (ch)  
26. Q Kt to K 5th P to Q 5th 54. K takes Q R to K 8th (ch)  
27. K Kt to Q 4th Q to Q 4th  
28. Q to Q Kt 3rd (f) P to Q Kt 3rd  
And White resigns.

(a) This opening was a great favorite of the lamented M'Donnell, and, in his hands, was invincible against all opponents until he tried it against the unparalleled L. B. Jurdonneau.

(b) It would have been better, probably, for White to have played P to K 5th, with the object of preventing his adversary from castling for some time. The move made, however, leads to some instructive combination.

(c) This is the best move, perhaps, considering he has a Rook more than the enemy.

(d) White resigns his Kt, so posted, too highly to sacrifice him for a Rook.

(e) Kt to K 5th would have made the position untenable and still more interesting.

(f) The Pawns, if it were advanced, by Kt to K B 4th, &c.

(g) Black's infantry are almost irresistible now, but his antagonist determines to fight on to the end.

(h) Mr. Newman plays this end game with great steadiness, and no little skill.

(i) The struggle is now on the one side to advance the Q Pawn, and on the other to prevent it, and this gives rise to a good deal of ingenuous skirmishing.

## EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Board of Ordnance has advertised for contracts to erect twenty-six batteries on the Dublin and Wicklow seaboard.

The Pacha of Egypt paid £180,000 last week to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company—being the last instalment of the loan contracted eighteen months since, to anticipate the tribute to the Sultan.

The famous car of Juggernaut of Muhammed, near Serampore, has been destroyed by fire.

Cardiff benefits by the war. Coal is in great demand, both for the English and French services. Freights to Malta, recently at 25s. per ton, are now 50s., with a return of freight at the same rate.

A patent has just been taken out in France for making sugar from pumpkins. The quantity produced will be at least as great as could be obtained from an equal quantity of beet-root.

Upwards of 150 lives were lost on the American rivers, in one week of last month, from explosions, fires, and sinking of steam-boats.

A gentleman's rifle corps for Middlesex has been formed. It is to consist of 400 men and is commanded by the Duke of Wellington as Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant.

At a recent meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, at New York, Captain Gibson delivered a lecture on the Indian Archipelago, and spoke of a race living in the South Seas, called Ourang-Kuba, covered with hair, wild and barbarous, and inferior to the human race generally.

"The most pious" Emperor of Russia has prohibited the circulation in P. O. of the portrait of Sir Moses Montefiore.

Lord Palmerston has addressed an order to the authorities at Norwich, forbidding any further interments in the churches of that city.

It is in contemplation to strike out the Government and other Prisons in Dublin from the list of Garrison Guards, the number of troops doing duty being unusually small.

Government have determined to establish in Edinburgh an Industrial Museum for Scotland, similar to those already existing in London and Dublin. Dr. Lyon Playfair has been in Edinburgh for several days making arrangements as to a site.

A petition is in circulation in New York for signatures, praying the Legislature to make three years' desertion a legal cause for a divorce, *a vinculo matrimonii*, on the ground that it will tend to the promotion of morality.

At the opening of the Roman Catholic Oratory last week, the following priests officiated, all of them having been formerly clergymen of the Church of England:—The Rev. Messrs. Faber, Bittleston, Caswall, Newman, Balston, Gordon, Ballard, Keox, Hutchison, Wells, and Bowden.

The Executive Government of Australia has advanced £3000 to defray the expense of sending specimens of Australian productions to the Paris Exhibition of 1855.

Lieut. Bocisco, nephew of the late Russian Minister at Washington, has been ordered home by his Government.

Madame Goldschmidt (Jenny Lind) gave her first concert at Vienna last week. It was most numerously attended, and went off with great *éclat*.

The warehouses of the Great West, says the *Boston Journal*, are overflowing with immense quantities of grain and flour.

A Galway journal asserts that a delusion has spread amongst the peasantry that "there will be a conscription to recruit the army of England in the East," and this is assigned as a cause for the great increase of the Irish Exodus.

Among the passengers from India by the *Ripon* were Prince Cholam Mahomed and son, the son and grandson of the renowned Tippoo Saib. The Prince, who has never before been out of Calcutta, is come to England to endeavour to get his son settled on his grandson.

Accounts from Portugal state that the disease in the vines is likely to be very destructive, and more general than it was last year. Brandy is quoted at £15 per pipe, quadruple the average price.

On Friday (yesterday week) the *Gazette* notice took effect to remove the names of the officers from the "Navy List" connected with the ships *Eribus* and *Terror* on the missing Arctic Expedition.

The value of the imports of specie last week exceeded £800,000, of which £550,124 was gold from Australia.

The Queen and King-Consort of Spain intend passing the holy week in Madrid, and will attend in person at the usual ceremonies which take place in the palace on Holy Thursday, viz., the washing of the feet, and the feeding a number of the poor.

The Government, through the Lord-Lieutenant, has given £1000 to the Society for the Encouragement of the Growth of Flax in Ireland.

The Viceroy of Egypt has, by decree dated the 9th ult., suppressed all the recent sanitary restrictions in the port of that country.

The members attending the Museum of Ornamental Art at Marlborough-house during the month of March were as follows:—6,000 persons on the public days, and admitted free; 1478 persons on the students' days, and admitted as students on the payment of 6d. each, besides the registered students of the classes and schools.

The consequences of the prohibition of gold from Russia are very serious indeed to foreigners residing there. The case of a French actress is mentioned, who lately remitted 60,000f. to Paris, and, being compelled to send it in Russian paper, received only 45,000f. Labache had the good luck to leave the day before the ukase was issued, and to bring away with him a handsome sum in gold.

In the two months ended the 5th March, the declared value of beer and ale exported was £162,492. Last year, during the same period, it was £198,291.

Cardinal Wiseman was to leave Rome on Monday, the 27th ult., on his route to England. He intended to make a short stay, on his way home, with his sister, who has married an Italian nobleman, and resides in the north of Italy.

The accounts of the Tithe Commissioners for England and Wales up to the 1st of January, show that the rent-charge awarded or agreed upon in lieu of tithes, amounts to £4,011,846. About three-eighths of the commutation was by awards, about five-eighths by agreement confirmed by the Commissioners.

The Prince and Princess de Joinville applied lately to the Queen of Spain for leave to reside at Grenada. The Queen did not think proper to accede to their demand, but assigned to them the city of Seville as a residence.

The gold-mining in North Wales is now fairly begun. Four machines have been put up, two of which are at work, and are alleged to be crushing quartz at the rate of a quarter of a ton per hour, the yield of gold from each ton averaging more than an ounce.

The Royal sanction has been given to a line of railway on each side of the Rhine provinces, with a permanent bridge at Cologne.

At a recent meeting of the City of London Ragged Schools, Sheriff Wire said, he could tell them, from his experience of the City prisons, that, since the establishment of ragged schools, juvenile crime had diminished fifty per cent.

A colossal marble statue of Mr. George Stephenson has been placed in the waiting-hall of the Euston-square station.

The bridge across the Tennessee river at Florence, Alabama, a magnificent structure, which cost 180,000 dollars, has been destroyed by a tornado.

The screw-steamer *Charity*, on its voyage from Liverpool to the United States, last month, was detained nine days in the ice.

The marriage of the Emperor of Austria will take place on the evening of the 24th inst. The nuptial benediction will be given to the august couple in the Chapel of the Palace, by the Archbishop of Vienna, assisted by other prelates and Archbishops of the empire.

A few days ago 150 seamen belonging to the Russian ship-of-the-line *Navarino*, lately disarmed at Flushing, on their way through Prussia, were received, by order of the King, at the railway station at Potsdam, and each sub-officer had paid to him one ducat, and each sailor a thaler.

Mr. Clementson, who has for half a century been Deputy-Serjeant-at-Arms attending the House of Commons, retired from that office on Friday last, and was succeeded by Mr. Gossett, who entered on his duties for the first time on Monday night.

The Court of Turin has gone into mourning for 20 days on account of the death of the Duke of Parma. The Court of Parma for six months.

## THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF CANADA.



THE CITY OF HAMILTON, FROM NEAR THE SUSPENSION-BRIDGE, AND DEPOT OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

the Drawbridge over the Desjardins Canal. The works here are extremely heavy; and the Suspension-bridge spans an opening made through the Heights, to allow of a new channel for the canal, found necessary in order to complete the Railway. The span of the bridge is 350 feet. These Heights are of an exceedingly hard material; and in

cutting through them the bones of some mammoth animals were discovered.

The third Illustration is a view of the Town of London, from the Railway-bridge over the River Thames: this bridge is a handsome wooden structure, of 160 feet span. London is an exceedingly thriving

town, containing about 10,000 inhabitants; the houses are mostly built of white brick; and, the streets being broad and straight, the town has a very substantial and handsome appearance. The district round London is exceedingly thriving and well cultivated.

A very handsome bridge has also been constructed to carry the Railway



SUSPENSION AND SPRING BRIDGES, BURLINGTON HEIGHT.

across the Grand River, near Paris. The piers are of solid masonry, the bridge itself being of the very finest Canadian oak. The banks of the Grand River are considered to be the finest section of country in Canada. The quantity of wheat raised in this part is very great indeed, and at the present time the Railway is conveying from that neighbourhood many

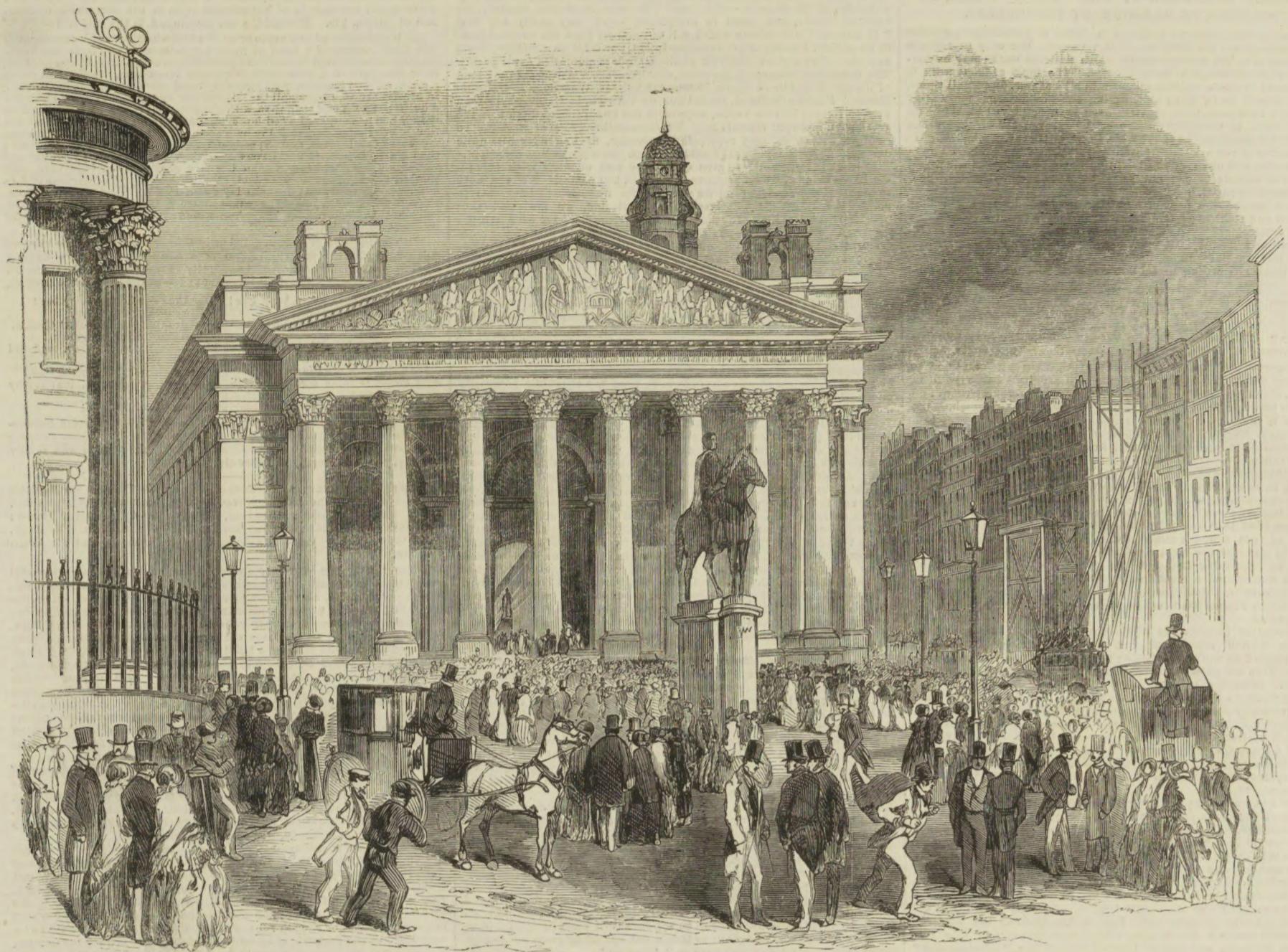
thousand barrels of flour to New York, owing to the existing high prices. The city of Hamilton is rising rapidly; it contains about 20,000 inhabitants; and its beautiful bay, seated at the head of Lake Ontario, transacts an immense amount of freighting business during the season of navigation. The Customs duties paid here in the year 1853 amounted

to the large sum of £120,000. The traffic upon this line, which is 228 miles in length, is already very large, amounting now to about £5000 a week in the depth of winter.

The suspension-bridge at Niagara Falls, which is proposed to be used for the passage of trains, is stated to be one of the wonders of the age.



TOWN OF LONDON, WITH THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BRIDGE ACROSS THE THAMES



PROCLAMATION OF WAR AGAINST RUSSIA, AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

## PROCLAMATION OF WAR AGAINST RUSSIA, AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

THE ceremony of Proclaiming War—of which, as enacted in olden times, we gave some account in our Journal of last week—was performed in the City on Friday last; although it must be acknowledged that the scene was unattended by any of those heraldic or other official accompaniments which invest the form with attraction.

About noon, Mr. Beddome, the mace-bearer, accompanied only by Mr. Hill, the gate-porter at the Mansion-house, proceeded from thence to the Royal Exchange, wearing their black robes of office, but without the mace or any other insignia. These officers were soon recognised, and followed to the steps in front of the Exchange, and were speedily surrounded by between 200 and 300 persons. The news spread in all directions, and a rush was made to the point of interest; but before many reached the spot, the brief ceremony was finished amidst loud cheers.

On the same day, war was also formally declared at Southampton. At twelve o'clock, the Royal standard was hoisted from the Audit House window; and immediately afterwards, the Mayor, in his official robes, attended by several members of the Town Council, and the Town Clerk, read the Queen's proclamation declaring war against the Emperor of Russia. As soon as he had finished, the sword of state belonging to the Corporation was unsheathed, symbolical of a state of war. The unsheathing of the sword was cheered by the crowd.



CONVICTS BREAKING UP "THE YORK" HULK, BY TORCHLIGHT, IN PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

CONVICTS BREAKING UP THE "YORK" HULK, IN  
PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR, BY TORCHLIGHT.

TRANSPORTATION being no longer a sentence of punishment, convict labour now engages the attention of Government, not only as regards the disposal of it, but as a system by which national works may be constructed, with advantage to public finance. The most arduous work is accomplished by these unfortunate men, in all weather, and at all times, by night as well as by day; and, during the preparations for war at Portsmouth Dockyard, these convicts have been employed breaking up the York Hulk, by torch-light. We have engraved the strange scene from a sketch made on the spot by Mr. Crew, of Haslar.

It is worthy of remark that frequently these men are employed upon various works, and often of that nature from which free labour would shrink; and volunteers can always be obtained for any service where hard labour is essential.

Such conduct on the part of men who are looked upon as the most abandoned and reckless characters, seems certainly to offer great hopes that the reformatory system, under which they are now so happily placed, will be attended with most beneficial results; and that, if any care and interest is taken in them after their discharge from prison, many of them will become useful and respectable members of society.

## LITERATURE.

CHATIMENT. Political Poems. By VICTOR HUGO. London: Librairie Universelle. St. Hellier, Jersey: Imprimerie Universelle.

The resistance which the Revolution of 1848—when it had attained to the mastery and direction of the affairs of the country—encountered in the spirit, character, and manners of France, would form a curious and instructive history; as placing in bold relief the antagonism which the principles it incited provoked at its commencement; and the prudence, energy, hopefulness, and distaste for the theories and promises of reformers, its sequel has revealed in the ideas and conviction of modern France.

We are fully aware of the paradoxical air with which we appear, at first sight, to have invested this sentiment; and we are also convinced that the surest road to the hearts of those whose dreams are of a universal Republic would be by declaiming against the majority of the French people of 1850 and 1852; but the true value and originality of a history of 1848 would consist precisely in the care with which it laboured to place France in a true point of view, and the accuracy it observed in explaining how and for what reasons a great people has offered so determined a resistance to the most seductive offers of its would-be reformers. Much has been said of the "battle of June," the result of which France has never appeared to repent, and has certainly never forgotten.

As regards the Constitution of 1850, which ensued, those at whose inspiration it had arisen received it with mistrust; those who had experienced its working defended it without predilection and without faith. Men are prone to measure the importance of events by their durability. From the moment the French nation felt that a greater amount of vitality existed in itself than in the Constitution, that Constitution naturally declined in the balance; and France, out of the provisional shelter under which it had sought a temporary refuge, created, on the 10th of December, the presidency of a Prince, and the consecration of a species of hereditary monarchy, and ultimately achieved a majority the most energetically opposed to Republican principles, and the most openly Monarchical in its sentiments, that ever sat in parliamentary conclave.

Thus did she, out of the perilous antagonism of legislative and executive power, out of an unlimited freedom of the press, and out of the universal suffrage, eliminate the instruments of resistance to a Republic which she would have none of.

We do not believe that there exists among the records of revolutions another example of a state of affairs at once so complex and so entangled, or one which required a more determined will to unravel, or a greater "ensemble" of decision and method to discard.

There is no reason why we should involve ourselves in political details, and attempt to show why France has rejected the proffered reforms, and cast out the reformers from her bosom, and why this society has hitherto, and does still, rebel against the "chastisement" which Victor Hugo asserts it is his mission to administer. We may, at all events, assume it as a fact sufficiently established, that, since the great political reform of 1789, no serious demand for amendment in the political organisation of the country had arisen. So true is this, that when the reformers of 1848 applied themselves to the task, they were quietly left alone in the hope that their labours would open out a new horizon, and bring to light some new marvel in the shape of liberty, fraternity, and equality. They, certainly, did their best, and struggled manfully to find some privilege to destroy, some second "Bastile" to raise, and for the opportunity of blazoning their triumphant banner with the inscription of "Come till then undiscovered right, in order that the new Constitution might have its "declaration of the rights of man," and its "night of the 4th of August." Unhappily, the search was vain, nothing of the sort was to be found. And the sole exploit of these stanch lovers of equality achieved, was to break their own heads against that stern immovable rock, the "right of property." Society in France, in short, had but to oppose its own *vis inertiae* to the attack of the minority to ensure its safety—"mole suu stat."

Such being the state of the majority after the revolution of 1848, it became a matter of necessity either to let France quietly pursue its course of progressive amelioration along the paths then opened to it, or to resort, in December, to a second "battle of June."

As far as the result is concerned, it is not our province to pronounce upon the form of government our neighbours may choose to adopt—monarchical, autocratic, republican, or a combination of all; for, as no form of government can make an ignorant people free, so no despotism can enslave a properly-educated people; and it was in manful appreciation of this fact that the authors of the Constitution of 1850, foreseeing the control which the progress of civilisation and enlightenment would exercise over the passions of mankind, thought fit to make a marked allusion to it in their *préambule*.

We would now ask whether it is not well deserving of all enlightened members of society to consider in what way they can best direct their energies and influence to promote among the community at large these essential constituents of progress in civilisation and enlightenment?

Very different notions, it is true, prevail among the persons out of whose mouths the word education finds utterance. But if, instead of composing the "Orientales," "Lights and Shadows," "Leaves of Autumn," and other poems of the same class—admirable though they undoubtedly are—Victor Hugo had devoted the prime of his life to elucidate, illustrate and promote among these "Crétins," "Sers grisés par le crime," "Prêtres du Dieu bûche," "Bœuf peuple," as he calls the people of Paris—the laws of that wonderful machine, by which changes are effected and revolutions carried out; if his transcendent genius had inspired him with the ambition of being the best expounder of social duties, instead of the greatest poet of his country; if he had knowingly laboured to point out the essentials of good government, even should his ideas on the subject have proved too profound or advanced for the requirements of the present day; if, in short, availing himself of the legacies bequeathed to man in the pages of the past, he had made himself an actual labourer in the great educational harvest-field, and gleaned therefrom such a system of training as would have enabled those who came after him in the cause of reform to avoid error and render "chastisement" unnecessary, the great poet would not have had to come forward at the eleventh hour, to condole over and bewail the sufferings of "Pauline Rolland," to denounce the tortures of the "Bagnes d'Afrique," to relieve his unfortunate fellow-sufferers by his bounty, to "chastise" his triumphant adversaries by his pen?

So much for the political portion of the book of "Châtiment." The more pleasant part of our duty is now to be performed. It is well known that the whole of Victor Hugo's splendid and busy life was dedicated to literature, and that his poetical labours have not ceased in the land of exile. Besides his well-known "Napoleon le Petit," he has published his own parliamentary speeches in two volumes, and he has in the press, "Histoire Contemporaine," two volumes; "Les Contemplations," poems, two volumes; "Les Petites Epopées," poems, one volume; "Les Misérables," a novel, six volumes.

Of these different works, only one, "Histoire Contemporaine," is of a political nature. The others belong to purely literary pursuits and social philosophy—especially "Les Misérables," which he commenced previous to the outburst of February 1848. The progress of the work was interrupted by that event, but its completion has been achieved in a foreign land. It is entirely free from political tendency, and has no relation to the stirring events of our time. It may be said to be a novel and drama combined, a kind of social epic, on a new and large scale.

In addition to all these, he originally published, at Brussels, a volume of poems, divided into different heads, the completion of which is the book now before us. Passing over the curses and bitter sarcasms

abounding in this book, and which prove that Victor Hugo is the very antipodes of Shakespeare—who found "Sermons in stones, books in the running brooks, and good in everything"—we may safely say that "Châtiment" is a volume which will not detract from the poetical fame of its author. Faculty of graphic description, powerful imagination, fervid and masculine diction, analytic skill—all are apparent in these poems. The beauties of nature, night, ocean, sunrise, rocks which round the island of Jersey, Bourdon de Notre Dame, Battle-fields, Waterloo, Retraite de Moscou, Pauline Rolland, les Soldats de l'An II, la Caravane, le Lion dans le Désert, Ultima Verba, acquire, in the unparalleled diction of the great poet, deeper interest and more irresistible grasp of reality. To such an extent do they captivate the reader, as to render him quite unconscious of the political frame in which these poems are embodied.

It is quite impossible to give quotations and extracts from this remarkable volume, which contains more than 300 poems. We can only recommend our readers (and we dare say the number will be great) to peruse the volume themselves. They will find, we are sure, that "Châtiment" despite its connection with politics, is a book which, in the power and vividness of its sketches, is not surpassed by any of the more celebrated poetical productions of the illustrious author of "Les Orientales" and "Notre Dame de Paris."

ATHERTON, AND OTHER TALES. By MARY RUSSELL MITFORD, Author of "Our Village." 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

What lover of truth and nature can have forgotten the possessive Our of "Our Village"? Was it not Ours, English, every inch of it, every person in it, every action; yea—every thought, that pertained not to its similitude but to its identity? The author has been compared to admirable Dutch and Flemish painters—to Hobbema, and Ruysdael, and Berghem; and so she deserves to be from her charming landscape pieces; but none of them could people their rural scenes like her, which required the talent of another famed class of their artists, such as Teniers and Ostade; only that what was vulgar in them she transmuted into pleasing and yet real rustic portraiture, without violating the result and making her clowns (as a pseudo-Gainsborough said that Virgil's husbandmen had done) spread the manure like gentlemen.

It is a long while since the four popular volumes to which we refer saw the light; so long, that we might almost have supposed the mature powers of that date must be, by this time, enfeebled or exhausted. But though we regret to learn that the physical strength of the amiable writer has felt the effect of increasing years, there is a consolation in seeing that her mental endowments are as fresh and vigorous as ever. A severe accident had so crippled her that she informs us, ten months after: "I gained no strength. The autumn found me again confined to my bed; wheeled with difficulty from the bed to the fire-side; unable to rise from my seat to stand for a moment, to put one foot before another; and when lifted into bed, incapable of turning or moving in the slightest degree whatever. Even in writing, I was often obliged to have the ink-glass held for me, because I could not raise my hand to dip the pen in the ink."

Amid such pain and suffering it is truly wonderful that "Atherton" could have been produced; but literature, with its griefs, is not without its gratifications. "So far (continues Miss Mitford) am I from murmuring against that Will which alone knows what is best for us all, that I cannot be sufficiently thankful to the merciful Providence which, shattering the frame, left such poor faculties as were originally vouchsafed to me, undimmed and unclouded; enabling me still to live by the mind, and not only to enjoy the never-wearying delight of reading the thoughts of others, but even to light up a sick chamber, and brighten a wintry sky, by recalling the sweet and sunny valley, which formed one of the most cherished haunts of my happier years."

Here we behold in a fine disposition an example of that curious rebound of mind, the effect of an inscrutable reaction, which, without a wish or a will, seeks, or rather experiences, in an opposite direction, a counterpoise to any pervading influence. The deepest affliction often explodes in most unseemly mirth; and merriment itself is sometimes drowned in tears. So, in this instance, in a minor degree, the sense of bodily suffering was met and vanquished by the strong resolve which found in the sweet creations of the ideal a refuge from the bitter actualities of the real. To offer a simile from the realm of flowers (the author's favourite haunt)—the rugged cactus was forced to yield delightful blossoms, the deformed air-plant to throw out sparkling gems of many-tinted hues. The sick couch gave us "Atherton."

The story itself is of a dramatic kind, and rather distinguished by the skilful drawing of the *dramatis personae* than by the complication of the plot. The condition of a noble family, father and son, about to lose the splendid inheritance of illustrious centuries, is finely described, and may be applied to a crisis which did not end so fortunately, though borne with equal firmness and honour, in a locality, not far remote from the author's humbler home, "beneath the shadow of her own beautiful Swallowfield." But the most original character of the whole is the boy Jacob Stokes, a village Caleb Quaile of infinite promptitude, ingenuity, and usefulness. He plays his part admirably, and fairly competes with the best in the circle above him, though they are touched with life-like traits, and exhibit natural and unexaggerated groupings of human beings—men and women, as they are, involved in a variety of social relations and consequent conduct.

Yet the spell which binds the reader to the volume (for "Atherton" occupies only the first) does not belong to the histrionic or the striking. Only one villain has the slightest connection with the melo-dramatic school, and all the rest are exactly such folks as we may meet with every day. Even the miser, though not common, is a genuine type of wandering life, and the account of his death is exceedingly graphic, and might be instructive, if miserly wretches ever took lessons from earth or heaven. The great and abiding charms of Miss Mitford's productions are the most perfect simplicity in every respects, and a freshness of description which cannot be surpassed. Events succeed each other as if invention and arrangement had nothing to do with them; and the actors, if we could so designate them, do exactly what ordinary people would most probably do under similar circumstances. And they are placed amid scenery which the country presents to the observant eye on every side, in every rural stroll—quiet nooks, picturesque combinations of copse and wood, dells trickling with slender-imposing rills, leafy haunts of feathered songsters filling the air with sweet sounds, broad expanses, and mountain-hemmed views—in these they perform their allotted parts; and while we feel interest even in their daily offices, we revel in the delicious freshness of the sites which are selected for their discharge, and the homely adventures which diversify them, sufficiently to furnish the stirring materials for the composition of a Tale.

We must notice, that, like Jacques, though not melancholy, our fair teacher evolves words of wisdom, pithy axioms, and moral improvement, from the inanimate as well as from the animate objects she so faithfully portrays. Take here half a dozen very short but apposite examples.

The miser's wealthy heiress, an unsophisticated country-girl, is, of course, spoken of as one who needs the impress of accomplishment under the tuition of a (finishing) governess; upon which her sagacious guardian exclaims, "Spare me the enumeration: good sense, good principles, and good temper, are what we want. The fewer accomplishments the better for my little rustic. The new fortune will be disadvantage enough. Do not let us add new knowledge. Nothing is so bad as an attempt at acquiring that which there is no time to learn. It is combining pretence and pretension."

Again. The reward of the exercise of constant charity towards our fellow creatures, is beautifully defined in few words—"It is difficult to speak evil of one who never says an unkind word of others!"

"Poetry, real poetry, besides the facts it leads to, is the finest form of truth." Elsewhere we are told that "True passion is always poetry."

"A generous spirit does love those whom it has served," is a maxim that ought to be written in letters of gold, as a companion to the grand Golden Rule.

The following, with which we conclude these extracts, is a remark of astute perception. "It is one of the safeguards of the simple, good folks of this world, that the cunning, wicked ones seldom give them credit for real goodness. They think, for the most part, that everybody is marketable, and that any resistance they may happen to meet with will yield to a higher bidding; and so they lose the benefit of much previous caution by a too open avowal of their ulterior purpose."

A very small space is required to show that Miss Mitford's tone of feeling is in excellent keeping with the qualities of her landscapes and accuracy of observation. We quote a single specimen. Looking over some sketches in a treasured portfolio, their gentle mistress expresses no displeasure at its being opened, but tenderly says:—"The first eight of those drawings reminded me of the days when they were taken—days when I was rich in a dear father and dear brother. But what is our whole life if not a memory of past happiness? And should not the gifts and virtues of those loved and lost be cherished as a blessing, not turned from us as a curse?"

It would be doing injustice to Miss Mitford's latest work—the longest narrative on which she has ventured, and that at an age closely border-

ing on the rare Scriptural allotment of three-score and ten—if we were not to select one sample of her pristine style in the admirable delineation of animal life. Marigold, a pet greyhound, is the subject:—

She had discovered and made prize of a hedgehog, which, coiling himself into a ball, exercised a kind of passive resistance, which bade fair to defeat the manoeuvres of its swift and powerful enemy. Marigold was puzzled. Now she gave it a poke with her pretty black nose, receiving so sharp a prick on that sensitive part that she tossed her slender head in the air in consternation, ringing all the bells of her silver collar; then she gave a quick pat with one foot, then with the other, drawing both feet back as if they had encountered a red-hot coal. Then the aggrieved nose was cautiously inserted underneath the hedgehog, with a view to find out some more vulnerable place, and the hedgehog, thus impelled, rolled on a little; then Marigold jumped first to one side, then to the other, to put her adversary off her guard (for Marigold was a greyhound of high race, and therefore of high courage), and adventured, much to the damage of her nose, another poke. At last she lay down with her head upon her paws, watching her prey, just as a cat watches a mouse-hole. Woe to the hedgehog if, deceived by those half-closed eyes, he ventures to uncoil before Marigold leaves her post!

With a specimen of poetry, deliciously akin to the prose of the tale, we will now finish the exemplification of a performance of rare natural sweetness and didactic power. Apparently so simple, that, like Garrick's acting, it is impossible to detect any art in it—captivating without effort.

Give thee good-morrow, busy bee!

No cloud is in the sky,  
The ringdove skims across the lea,  
The matin lark soars high;  
Gay sunbeams kiss the dewy flower,

Light breezes stir the tree,  
And sweet is thine own woodbine  
And 'tis a bower—

Good morrow, busy bee!

The second and third volumes contain a collection of shorter productions, previously printed in annuals and periodicals; the whole forming a publication of exceeding attraction, especially for female and family reading, yet quite worthy of other classes.

MODERN HUSBANDRY: a Practical and Scientific Treatise on Agriculture, illustrating the most Approved Practices in Draining, Cultivating, and Manuring Land; Breeding, Rearing, and Fattening Stock; and the General Management and Economy of the Farm. By G. H. ANDREWS, C.E. With Illustrations by E. Duncan and H. Weir Cooke.

This long titlepage correctly describes the contents of a very useful contribution to agricultural literature; a book, which in a compact form, at a moderate price, affords just that amount of information which the increasing class of agricultural amateurs can manage to digest before they grapple with more elaborate and costly works, like those of Stephens, Low, and Morton. Farmers are not great book-buyers, although they read and write more now by a hundredfold than they did fifty years ago, but in any case they do not purchase, because they do not need, elementary works like the one under our notice, which is evidently intended for the instruction of the young, whom good fortune has transplanted to a country life, and for the middle-aged, who have been enabled to exchange a town for rural occupations and recreations. For this reason, it would be unfair to submit "Modern Agriculture" to the kind of criticism which would be suitable in the case of a work written for the information and instruction of farmers.

Mr. Andrews begins at the beginning with an analytic description of soils and subsoils, and proceeds to devote successive chapters to transfer and tenure of land; draining, with a history and description of the best method; farm buildings, with illustrations and plans; breeding, inures, crops, cultivation, machinery, and implements; and concludes with a chapter on orchards, woods, and hedges.

Thus we have, in a comparatively brief space, an epitome of an art which, practised from the days when the huter first became a tiller of the soil, has made greater progress in this country than in any other, and greater progress in the last twenty years than in the preceding century. But if it were not for popular works like this of Mr. Andrews, the bread-eating, non-farming, non-hunting public—who only know wheat in quarter loaves or French rolls, and grass as turf or hay—would know very little of the progress of agriculture; because, whatever the process, the external results are nearly the same. In live stock it is possible certainly to produce an impression on the non-bucolic. There is an evident difference between the coarse-haired, thick-skinned, long-legged, slouch-eared, nimble creatures that bound along the fields and by-roads of Germany and France, and the smooth, delicate, sleepy, obese little monsters that snore on pillows at our agricultural shows; and it does not take much rural study to tell the better animal between a Welsh runt and one of the prize Highlanders fined down by careful breeding, and tamed by good living; but, with regard to grain, the most valuable vegetable produce of our farms, the rudest culture on a rich virgin soil, with a favourable sun, will produce as fine a sample as the best farmer with all the appliances of art. The farmer has not either the pecuniary or the moral incentive to invention and exertion that inspires the manufacturer. The man who invents a valuable machine has the chance of reputation and fortune, of which he cannot be deprived; the man who produces a new and cheap manufacture, at the same time excites attention and secures profit. We are now writing in a room with chintz curtains, which cost some six or eight pounds; and we are informed by a person in the trade that, fifty years ago, chintz of the same quality and quantity would have been worth at least forty pounds. In Manchester there are to be seen specimens of calico which cost 2d. a yard in the year 1800; quite as good an article can be produced in 1854 for 2d. a yard. The improvements in calico and in chintz were successive. They never halted; they were seen to all eyes, and felt by all pockets. Other manufacturers were obliged to improve, too, or be driven out of the market, because manufacturers have no exclusive markets; they are not protected by bad roads or long distances in the home trade. But in agriculture improvements of the highest importance have been made, practised, and forgotten; for there was no way of making their advantage generally known. The wheat grown under the most adverse circumstances by help of deep draining, subsoiling, sheep treading, careful manuring, looks just the same as that grown on a good soil without care; as for the difference of cost, that is a question very difficult to make clear to those who prefer old ways to new improvements. And so, too, it was not by the quality of the beef that stall and turnip feeding made their way from Norfolk, Lincoln, and Bedford, to other counties.

Above all other money-making arts, agriculture most requires for its improvement close personal communication and examination by the class interested. It is for this reason that, by the assistance of railroads, which farmers so much oppose; and steam-boats, which they so little appreciate; and newspapers, which they so eagerly read, and so often abused, agriculture has made such rapid progress in the last ten years. Take, for instance, the most important agricultural improvement of this, perhaps of any, age—"deep, thorough drainage;" it is not a new invention in detail, or discovery in principle. By special families, and in certain localities, it has been practised for more than one hundred years. Indeed, Mr. Andrews gives quotations from a book called the "English Improver Improved; or, the Survey of Husbandry Surveyed," dedicated to the right honourable "the Lord General Cromwell," in which the principles and practice of deep drainage are laid down with a precision and clearness well worth attention, even at the present day, in some of our benighted counties. But, nevertheless, when Smith, of Deanston, commenced the agitation which led to our present deep, thorough drainage system (although he was not at first aware of the advantage of deep drainage), the whole work of instructing the public mind had to be done. Indeed, we can trace the rapid



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